

SUMERS' RESEARCH

Bulletin



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Walter F. Grueninger

CONSUMERS' RESEARCH



BULLETIN

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Off the Editor's Chest

CONSUMERS who have patriotically tightened their belts, made their old appliances do, refrained from buying new clothes when the ones they had were still wearable, walked to market instead of adding an additional passenger to an already crowded bus, and who have patiently put up with the red tape and loss of time required to operate under our cumbersome system of rationing will be well advised to begin to examine critically the assertions now being made by various government officials that such controls must be continued for a "reasonable period" after the war.

As the somewhat inept "theorists" are eliminated from the wartime agencies in Washington and "practical businessmen" take their place, certain sections of the trade press are showing a decided change in their attitude toward the control agencies, the OPA particularly. While they still protest against the inadequate profit margins allowed by the price ceilings, there appear to be only a very few who favor elimination of OPA's price controls.

Much the same change in attitude took place in NRA days. There was a great hue and cry in business circles against the restrictions imposed by the "codes of fair competition," but eventually it was discovered that under government sponsorship selling prices could be fixed and agreed upon in government meeting places under official sanction, and that small competitors could be brought into line in a fashion that would have rendered many a big firm or group of firms liable to prosecution under the anti-trust statutes in pre-NRA days. The little fellows managed to put up such a strong pro-

test that the NRA was finally allowed to die, its demise hastened by the Supreme Court's decision in the famous *Schechter* case, but not without a sigh of regret by many businessmen who were just beginning to discover the practical business usefulness of an institution they had once protested and feared. As the *New York Times* put it, "the majority of executives...while realizing the law's faults, see the need for its extension."

There is growing evidence today that the present war control measures as administered by agencies such as the WPB and the OPA are turning out to be handy tools to control competition and obtain trade advantages for certain groups. In New York City, for example, the president of the restaurant trade association persuaded Mayor LaGuardia to issue a ukase, without legal right or power, that butter was not to be served in New York City restaurants at the mid-day meal. Any restaurant which might be able to obtain butter in a strictly legal manner and perform its normal service to its customers in the best way possible was threatened with charges of violating the city's sanitary code in order to deter it from offering competition to those restaurants which were unable for one reason or another to obtain butter.

One of the best dairies in eastern New Jersey was fined \$1000 some months ago because its cream contained too much butterfat. There was a time when a farmer got in trouble for watering his milk. Now apparently he may be heavily fined if he doesn't.

Butter, as every housewife knows to her sorrow,
(Continued on page 26)

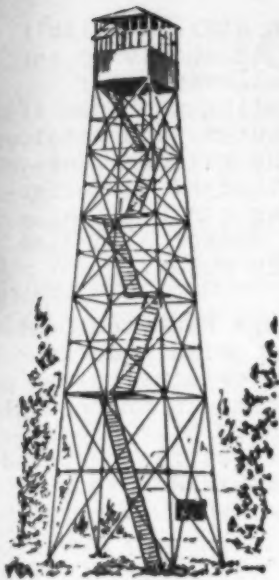
Scientific and Technical Experts and Editors: F. J. Schlink, R. Joyce, M. C. Phillips, A. R. Greenleaf, and Charles L. Bernier. **Editorial Assistant:** Mary F. Roberts.

Symbols used to indicate sources of data and bases of ratings: A—recommended on basis of quality; AA—regarded as worthy of highest recommendation; B—intermediate with respect to quality; C—not recommended on basis of quality; cr—information from Consumers' Research's own tests or investigations; 1, 2, 3—relative prices, 1 being low, 3 high. Note that price and quality are completely differentiated in CR's listings; a quality judgment is independent of price; 42, 43—year in which test was made or information obtained or organized by the staff of Consumers' Research.

It will be advantageous if you will, whenever possible, send prompt notice of change of address at least a month before it is to take effect, accompanying your notice with statement of your old address with name in full. At least three weeks' notice must be given in any case. Long advance notice, however, is not required in the case of military personnel, whose changes of address will gladly be handled whenever and as often as needed.

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The Consumers' Observation Post

ELECTRIC IRONS AND TOASTERS are reportedly scheduled to go into limited production early in 1944. On the other hand, it is pointed out that a shortage of carbon steel has stalled plans to get into production on electric washing machines and mechanical refrigerators. If womanpower is as urgently needed in war production as some press releases and radio announcements make out, some "munitions for the home front" will have to be provided in order that women may reduce their household tasks to an efficient minimum. When the washing machine breaks down and there are no spare parts or servicemen, she may have to stay home from work to do the family washing in the old-fashioned hard way—if she can find the wash tubs and a wringer.

* * *

SULFONAMIDE DRUGS have been greeted with such acclaim by the lay press that the average person is apt to expect magical results from their use, particularly in treatment of the common cold. In a recent issue of the Journal of the Kansas Medical Society, Lieut. A. J. Kauvar and Lieut. Colonel Frank R. Mount of the Army Medical Corps carried on a clinical study of the problem which showed no evidence that treatment with sulfonamides influenced the course of the disease or prevented complications. There was, on the other hand, real evidence to show that secondary complications were more frequent and more severe when sulfa drugs were administered than in cases where they were omitted. Consumers will be wise to refrain from indulging in self-medication with these drugs. They have unpleasant aftereffects, and may sometimes cause very serious or even fatal illness on their own account; thus they should be used only on prescription of a competent physician.

* * *

PRODUCTION OF AUTO TIRE CHAINS is scheduled, at present writing, to be restricted. Consumers who live in sections of the country where snow and sleet make roads impassable in the wintertime without good substantial chains will be well advised to see that their present chains are adequate for the coming season or purchase new ones. It is entirely unwise to rely for real service and effectiveness on the so-called "emergency chains" applied at two or three points on the wheel.

* * *

SHEEPSKIN LINED SLIPPERS AND GLOVES are again to be made for civilians. All restrictions on the purchase and processing of wool shearlings were lifted in September 1943. For almost two years the entire output had been reserved for military use, especially for flying suits needed by the Army Air Forces. In the future, production in excess of military needs will be available for civilians.

* * *

LACQUER HAIR PADS have been the cause of severe skin irritation about the neck and ears in a large number of cases, according to a recent issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association. The Federal Food and Drug Administration has ordered all manufacturers of such products to withhold further shipments until the chemical factor which caused the trouble can be determined. According to a preliminary report, the irritating element may have been a new gum which was being used in making the pads.

* * *

SMALL PRESSURE COOKERS that, before production of important civilian goods was cut off, were made in one-, two-, three-, and four-quart sizes are an important factor in reducing the time it takes to prepare a meal, according to

one CR subscriber who made a lucky purchase while stocks were still available. Since the woman worker in war and other essential industries is unable to get enough canned vegetables for her family on her small ration allowance for processed foods, it would certainly help solve her dinner-getting problems if she could buy a pressure cooker which cooks peas in three minutes, and potatoes in eight, for example. Incidentally, when production of these kitchen time-savers is again resumed, the manufacturers should give some thought to designing a small trio of light-weight pans to fit inside the larger cookers that will enable a small family to cook several vegetables in one cooker at a time. This can now be managed by the judicious use of aluminum jelly molds.

* * *

DWINDLING SHOE PRODUCTION plagues the OPA. Price ceilings keep beef cattle off the market, and there are fewer hides for the tanners, with a corresponding shortage of leather for the shoe manufacturers. The ceiling prices on hides set by the OPA make it unprofitable for U.S. firms to compete successfully in the South American market where British commercial traders have the edge on us. Add to the OPA's problem the fact that the U.S. has recently announced an agreement to supply Russia with 200,000 pairs of shoes a month and tons of sole leather besides.

* * *

FRESH MILK is in extremely short supply in some sections of the country. There was a time when it was considered "the most nearly perfect food," almost indispensable to everyone, in the opinion of leading diet and nutrition experts. Now it seems that many families are using more than they need, according to an official release of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which actually suggests that "a normal, healthy adult who drinks a quart of milk a day is drinking more than is actually necessary for good nutrition." How they have misled us all these years! On the saner side of the picture, an army officer who lived on Corregidor Island for five years comments that everyone on the island got along with canned or dried milk and many children were raised successfully without the use of any fresh milk whatever. It's all according to what we have—but it would be nice if the food experts would remember that if consumers are using too much milk, it was the diet experts who overdid the propaganda for milk consumption in the first place.

* * *

ENGLISH WOOLENS are fast disappearing from U.S. markets. What is here will have to last for the duration or some other unspecified period, for Britain has stopped all exports in order to take care of her Empire trade. Except for the labor shortage, which is troublesome, there should be a greater abundance of American-made woollens during the coming season. Advertisements are even appearing for all-wool blankets, which have been hard to find during the past year. With our stock pile of wool the largest in history, we ought to be able to give up, without regret, the various government-required part-cotton, part-rayon, part-wool numbers that department stores have been obliged to feature.

* * *

EXCESSIVE INTAKE OF VITAMIN B may lead to formation of gallstones, according to a recent report of research at the University of California. Experiments on animals showed that under certain conditions of food intake, with vitamin B taken as a supplement, an abrupt and usually fatal anemia occurred without the preliminary loss of weight and other signs of ill health that usually go with anemia. Examination of the animals which died showed gallstones, lesions of the gallbladder, and other troubles. The guinea pigs used as control animals and fed on the same rations, except that they received no extra vitamin B, were free of gallstones. The obvious conclusion drawn by the researchers was that overabundance of vitamin B led to the development of gallstones in the test animals. Since other experiments have shown deleterious effects of excessive doses of thiamine (B₁), extreme caution is called for on the part of those who have looked upon vitamins as a cure-all to be taken indiscriminately on any and all occasions.

* * *

BEEF, VEAL, LAMB, AND PORK TONGUES are still on the ration list, as many consumers discovered early in October when they went to their butchers after hearing the announcement over the radio that "long-cut tongues" were removed

(The continuation of this section is on page 29)

Fountain Pens

The Market Situation

The buying of a fountain pen has always been a problem fraught with considerable risk, of paying too much and getting too little, or paying too small an amount and getting gypped. This year the situation will be perplexing to the consumer accustomed to purchasing by well-advertised trade names he has considered reliable, for he will as a rule have only a poor chance of finding anywhere in town a pen of the make he has in mind to buy; if he does find a dealer with a few pens of the preferred make, the stock will likely be very small and offer little or no choice of either type of point or price. There are almost no good low-priced pens to be had; even the ten-cent stores, which used to stock some fairly good pens at prices around 25 cents now frequently have no pens at all, or feature pens of the *Wearever* brand at \$1, or, to pull up their average sale still further, are offering only pen-and-pencil sets at perhaps \$2.75, a poor pen combined with a mediocre mechanical pencil that in normal times would sell at about 20 to 25 cents.

Big-city stationery stores that used to sell fountain pens at low prices, from \$1 up, now display no pens, or very few, under \$5; some offer none under \$8.75 to \$10, their idea evidently being that if the fountain pen business must be cut in volume by the exigencies of wartime shifts of labor and materials, they might as well make big sales as little ones. Their clerks act annoyed if one so much as suggests he would like

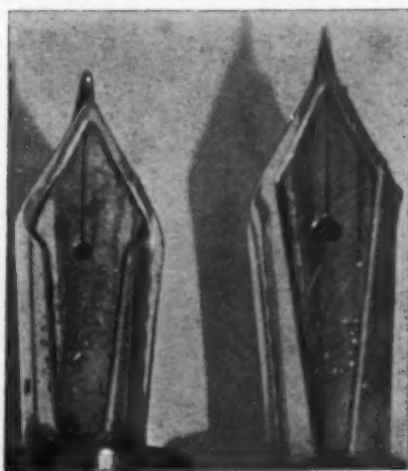
to look at a few pens at about \$3.50 to \$5. This attitude is encouraged by the pronounced consumer demand for fountain pens as gifts to friends in civil life and especially in the Services. The regular pen shops, drugstores, and other dealers in fountain pens are following much the same practices and make it often difficult or impossible to buy a pen without a matching pencil. (This applies even in the very high-priced pens at \$12.50, \$15, and higher; if you want a pen, you are practically forced to buy the set even if the pencil is of no use to you whatever.)

As to the well-known makes, *Parkers* seem to be scarcest. Even the \$12.50 and \$15 *Parker 51's* seem to be snapped up as fast as the dealers' small quota arrives in stock; this type of pen has been a favorite with military personnel who can spare the money to pay for it. The high-priced *Sheaffer* pens, the *Triumph*, at \$12.50 are more

easily found. The moderate-priced pens of any good makes are very difficult to find. The best likelihood of finding them is, we believe, in the *Sheaffer*, *Waterman*, and *Esterbrook* brands.

The tax problem has contributed to the consumers' price difficulties in fountain pen buying this year. The vogue for "mismatching" has not been confined to men's suits, for this year manufacturers have all burst out with a great display of pens with dark-colored barrels and gold or silver caps. On all such pens a jewelry tax of 10% must be paid. A dollar to a dollar and a half on top of the price of a fountain pen already more expensive than normally, comes as a shock to a person who has been accustomed to buying a first-rate fountain pen of standard style and type with a gold point, at \$3.50 to \$5.

Pen buyers who have been accustomed to obtaining a good fountain pen at a dollar might suppose that this year they should be able to get a pen at or near that price without getting into the gyp class of product, but this is not true, for they are very likely to be cheated in buying any low-priced pen, with the single exception of the \$1 *Esterbrook*; as to the latter, very few can still be found; governmental restrictions on the alloy required for the points have stopped manufacture of this fountain pen. (Most of the pen shops, as has been noted, prefer not to sell the cheaper pens at all in the present booming market.) Buying pens at or around a dollar



A widely sold type of pen in which to save cost, a backing or support of stainless alloy was used behind a thin and narrow gold pen. See text.

in any other brands, our investigation indicated, will usually be a waste of money.

Guaranties

We do not have space to discuss in detail the topic of fountain pen guarantees, but consumers should be reminded that *no fountain pen guaranty should be regarded as a reason for buying any pen which they would not be buying otherwise.* There is not the slightest reason for paying a high or premium price for a fountain pen allegedly guaranteed for a "lifetime," or other long period. The manufacturers of fountain pens, even of the highest-priced makes,

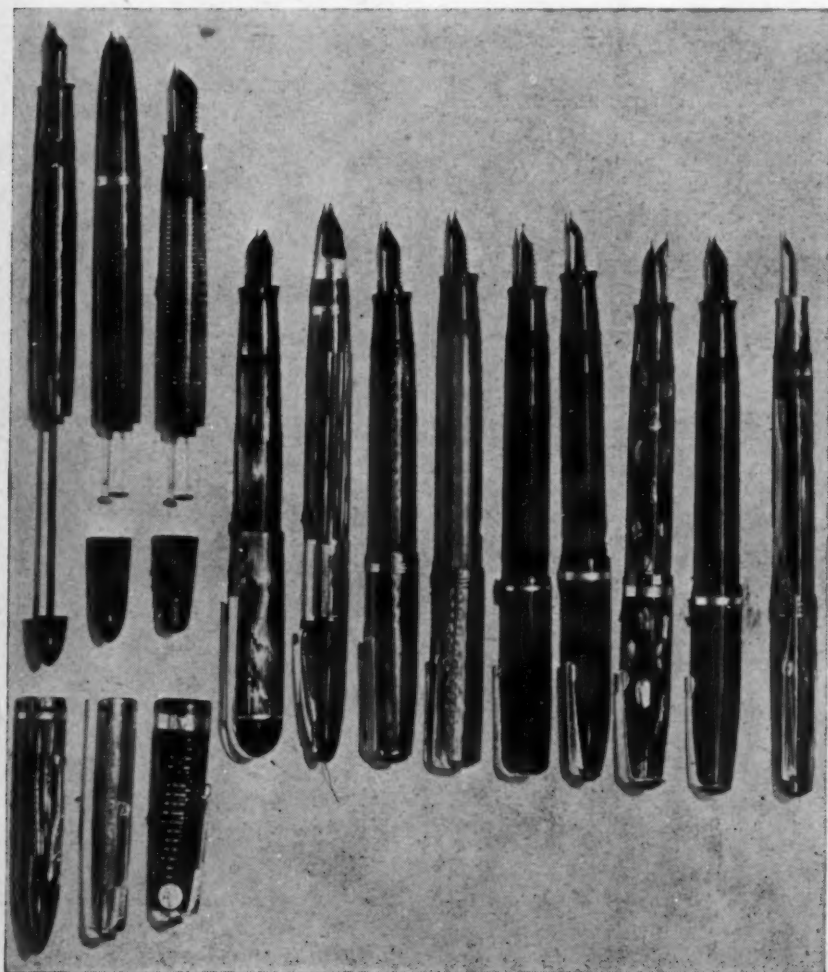
have pretty generally published tricky advertising promising lifetime free service to the pen buyer. That advertising has persuaded many consumers to spend \$7.50 to \$15 for a pen which is no better in fact than other pens at \$3.50 to \$5. The average consumer who has not been caught before on a tricky guaranty for some article he has purchased finds it hard to resist the appeal of a free guaranty of lifetime service; he is likely to forget that the manufacturer is not held by a binding contract, enforceable in any practicable way, to do what he is expected to do, and certainly not to do it free of charge.

Your Old Pen Will Be Better, Usually

One important thing to remember is that if there is not a compelling need to buy a pen now, it will be best not to do so, since this is the poorest fountain-pen market in decades from the consumer's standpoint. Many persons have in their homes or offices not one but several fountain pens which can be made as good as new (and far better than most of the new ones sold today) by a minor repair job costing from 50 cents to a dollar or so. Most consumers assume that a fountain pen is irretrievably ruined when there is in fact nothing wrong with it but a stiff, dead, deformed or twisted ink sac or a feed which is clogged with dried or gummed ink. (Pens are usually in such bad shape because they have become plugged up by use of different kinds of ink in the pen. "Ink-mixing" puts more pens out of service than any other cause.) Many such pens will require only to be taken apart by a professional pen-man for cleaning and the simplest of repairs or adjustment.

Filler Mechanisms

The extra ink capacity obtained by the filler mechanism of the *Parker 51* or *Parker Vacumatic*, *Waterman Ink-Vue*, and *Sheaffer* is not an unmitigated advantage, for if trouble occurs with the filler (and there is fair likelihood of such trouble developing), the pen will have to be dispensed with for the period of its return to the factory or a factory repair depot; the regular fountain-pen repairmen do not like to work on these complex pens, which require special skill and tools and a stock of the parts that may be broken or damaged in taking



Left to right: *Sheaffer Miss Universe*, *Parker 51*, *Parker Vacumatic*, *Eversharp Skyline*, *Sheaffer Triumph*, *Esterbrook \$3.50*, *Esterbrook \$1*, *Esterbrook \$1*, *Wear-ever Zenith*, *Wear-ever De Luxe Presfil*, *Wear-ever \$1*, *Waterman Ideal Ink-Vue*.

the pen apart. Without question, the all-around-best filling mechanism is the old-fashioned simple side-lever filler located at the middle of the pen barrel as found on the \$1 *Esterbrook*, the *Eversharp*, and the old-style *Waterman* pens.

The laboratory study of the fountain pens reported herein included determination of ink-holding capacity, expert and "consumer jury" judgment of writing characteristics, and third, a test for freedom of ink flow in a writing test of several pages done at high speed.

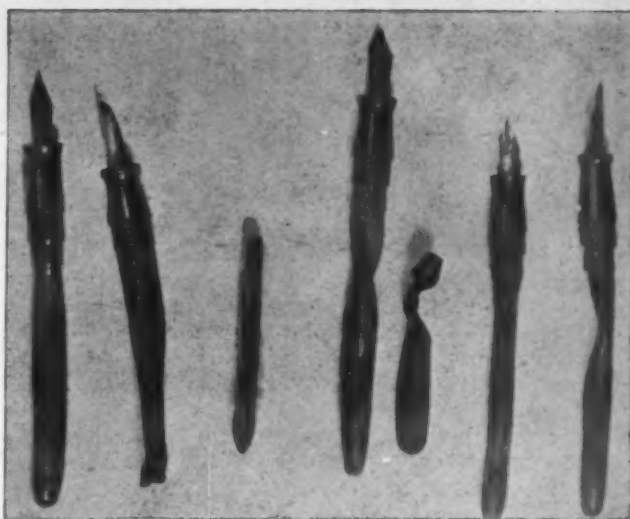
The "jury" test was made by a group of eight, with each pen concealed in a wrapping so that not even the point showed when the pen was held in the writing position. The test was divided in two parts; one with and one without the blindfold. The writing was done on a low-grade manila paper, this being used to make clearer the difference between well-smoothed and poorly smoothed nibs.

Due to the sheath enclosing each pen, in both the blindfold and the other test as to the pen's writing qualities, the reaction of each individual was obtained without possibility of his being prejudiced by shape, style, finish, size or appearance of point, or make of pen. Faults of the pens which drew unfavorable comments from their users were that certain pens scratched or that the ink flow was not satisfactory. Most of the users preferred a fine line (in the not-blindfolded test) to a coarse one, which is perhaps helpful in buying a pen for a person whose writing habits are not well known to the purchaser. They also preferred a pen which wrote evenly without any particular pressure being applied in writing.

The listings which follow are based on careful studies of a considerable number of purchased pens, and on a repeated and continued study of the market situation over a period of months. The listings therefore present skilled judgments of the various makes of fountain pens and are a guide to what can be advantageously purchased in the present market in an average fair-sized or large city.

A. Recommended

- *Esterbrook* (Esterbrook Steel Pen Mfg. Co., Camden, N.J.) \$1.
 - *Dura-Chrome* No. 1314 point. Writing qualities, very good. Had one of the best writing points of any of the pens tested.
 - Ink capacity, below average; filler, lever type.
 - Points, interchangeable, 25c, 50c, and 75c; new points available as replacements only. ¶The \$1 *Esterbrook* pens have been far and away the best buys in their price class, are indeed about as good in most essential respects as pens selling for several times their price. These pens, however, are scarce at the present time and are expected soon to disappear entirely from the civilian market. A very important advantage of this type of pen is the cheapness with which a damaged point can be replaced or a point of a different type inserted. A wide variety of types as to fineness and stiffness of nibs is available at 25c, complete with feed sections which are simply screwed into position in the barrel (others at 50c and 75c). The durability of the cheaper *Esterbrook* nibs is undoubtedly less than that of the best "iridium-tipped" gold pens, and in time the 25c points will wear down. Those used by CR for a number of years have remained through a long



With a good many fountain pens that are "out of order," nothing more serious is found, when the pen is taken apart, than a twisted, flattened, torn, or "dead" rubber ink sac.

period satisfactorily free from any serious corrosive action by the ink. However, the disadvantage of poorer wear resistance than the gold "iridium"-tipped pens is not a serious one since gold pens frequently need to be replaced for reasons other than wear of the tip. This pen is ideal for a person who is doing lettering or drawing, for it affords a wide choice of nibs at low cost.

- *Parker Vacumatic* (The Parker Pen Co., Janesville, Wis.) \$8.75.
 - Writing qualities, excellent.
 - Ink capacity, good; not as resistant to flooding as *Parker 51* and *Sheaffer Triumph*. Pump filler, mechanism similar (repeated strokes) to that of *Parker 51*.
 - One of the best writing points; semi-transparent barrel to show ink content.
 - Finish, excellent. ¶This is about the cheapest of the *Parker* pens that one can buy readily on the present market. *Parker* pens of the same general construction and design have been regularly listed at \$5. This pen is for most practical purposes the equal of the *Parker 51*, which costs 43% more, with the exception of the fact that the cap screws into place (two turns). The \$8.75 pen is distinctly to be preferred, in respect to satisfactory ink feeding, to the *Parker 51*.
- *Sheaffer Miss Universe* (W. A. Sheaffer Pen Co., Fort Madison, Iowa) \$3.50.
 - Writing qualities, very good.
 - Ink capacity, unusually good for a fountain pen of small size; pump filler, single-stroke type.
 - Finish, very good. ¶There are other *Sheaffer* pens having the same

style and finish, a little larger, at about the same price, but under other names. *Miss Universe*, being small, is a good pen for the use of any woman who does not mind the pump-style filler discussed under *Sheaffer Triumph*. Good nibs, some stiff enough for writing a carbon copy or two, are common in this pen. Semi-transparent barrel, so that amount of ink remaining can be seen.

- **Waterman Ideal Ink-Vue** (L. E. Waterman Co., 191 B'way, New York City) \$5. • Writing qualities, good. • Ink capacity, excellent; lever filler requiring repeated strokes (a somewhat more desirable filler mechanism than that of *Sheaffer* and *Parker*). • Finish, good. ¶ Good performance, good ink flow, good points. Transparent feed section. A well-finished and generally satisfactory pen. Ink capacity best of the group tested; 60% larger than *Sheaffer Triumph*, twice as great as the \$3.50 *Sheaffer*, the *Eversharp Skyline*, or the \$1 *Esterbrook*.

B. Intermediate

- **Esterbrook** (See first rating in A group) (Esterbrook Steel Pen Mfg. Co.) \$3.50. • Writing qualities, excellent. • Ink capacity, good but not outstanding; a new filler mechanism, slow in action, requiring $8\frac{1}{2}$ turns to the left and then $8\frac{1}{2}$ turns to the right. • Choice of 5 types of points at \$1.50. Points, made of 12 kt. palladium alloy, interchangeable with the one-dollar *Esterbrook*. • Finish, good; finish of point, excellent. ¶ This *Esterbrook* pen represents a redesign to meet the government limitation orders prohibiting use of rubber for ink sacs and of stainless steel for points. Durability of the new filling mechanism cannot be judged at this time. Certainly seems to be a good enough pen for any practical use.
- **Eversharp Skyline** (Eversharp, Inc., 1800 Roscoe St., Chicago) \$5. • Ink capacity, fairly low for the type and size of the pen; plain lever filler mechanism similar to *Waterman No. 5*. ¶ A good pen of the conventional design, except for an excessively "streamlined" or "modern" shape of barrel and cap. Available with flexible nibs. Satisfactory ink flow. Gold pen point was small but would be large enough for most users. A fairly good buy in the five-dollar class, considering the present market.
- **Parker 51** (The Parker Pen Co.) \$12.50 up. • Writing qualities, fair. • Ink capacity, very good. A feature of this pen is that it is relatively resistant to flooding. Pump filler mechanism, like that of the \$8.75 *Parker*, slow to fill, requiring repeated strokes. • Choice of points, very limited because of the high expense to the dealer per pen purchased for stock. • Finish, excellent. ¶ This imaginatively advertised and featured pen described as "breath-takingly beautiful," "positively regal," and "like a pen from another planet," bases its sales appeal upon two features: first, an unusual arrangement of the gold point which is almost completely shrouded in a tapered point section made of plastic so that only a sixteenth of an inch of the point shows; and second, upon the allegation that the pen works best with a special ink which, it is explained, will not function safely in any other pen. These two features give just the right atmosphere for selling today's highest-priced fountain pen (priced at least twice as high as any fountain pen need be). This pen has become a favorite of military personnel and of civilians who have extra money to spend on something of prestige value. ¶ The pen has merits, but these do not justify its high price. The shrouded point, which is closely supported immediately above the writing tip, permits use of the pen by other persons than the owner without much risk of injury by unusual writing pressure, a factor of interest to bank people and others who must in the regular course of their work allow their pens to be used freely by customers. The 51 is a good pen for making carbon copies because of the heavy writing pressure it can stand without damage to the point. The cap of the *Parker 51*, instead of being screwed on, is simply pushed into place. There are directions furnished with this pen regarding its filling and use, and these must be closely read and followed.
- **Sheaffer Defender** (W. A. Sheaffer Pen Co.) \$5. • Writing qualities, good but not quite so good as *Sheaffer Miss Universe*. • Ink capacity, very good. • Well finished. • Hard to find, but a very good buy if obtainable.
- **Sheaffer Triumph "Lifetime."** \$12.50 up. • Writing qualities, fair. • Ink capacity, very good, about comparable with that of *Parker 51*. This

pen would rate exceptionally good in resistance to flooding. Pump filler, single stroke type. • Only stiff points are available at this time. • Finish, excellent. ¶ A competitor to *Parker 51*, also at a luxury price. The *Triumph* is also a pen of distinctive design but in contrast with *Parker* the writing point has a great deal of exposed gold. Cap, instead of pushing on, goes on with a single turn; an improvement over pens which require several (two or more) turns to close. This pen a little better as to choice of nibs available than *Parker 51*. Nibs also stiff (but flex more than the *Parker 51* under heavy pressure) and well adapted to making carbon copies. Semi-transparent barrel to show ink content, an advantage over *Parker 51*. The maker promises to furnish flexible nibs after the war without other than the usual 35-cent service charge. Pump filler mechanism not entirely satisfactory, for out of about six or eight *Sheaffer* pens having this filler design which have been used and studied, two have developed trouble with the filling mechanism, requiring the return of the pens to the factory. (Need for such factory repair would be a great disadvantage in a pen sold for military use, since simplicity and conventionality of design are of greatest importance to facilitate repair of a fountain pen in an ordinary pen repair shop without its having to be returned to the maker or a repairman having special or unusual facilities.) Operation of pump a bit awkward; any person not having a degree of mechanical skill or handiness might find this filling device a bit inconvenient to use.

- **Waterman Ideal, No. 5** (L. E. Waterman Co., 191 B'way, N.Y.C.) \$5. • Writing qualities, fair. • Ink capacity, good. • Finish, good. • Filler mechanism, old-style single-stroke lever which, on being pulled outward from the barrel, compresses a conventional ink sac. This is the type considered most desirable from the standpoint of freedom from trouble, and ease of repair; it can be put in order without need for return to the factory. (The same type of filler is found also in *Eversharp Skyline* and *Weaver Zenith*.) Gold point of good size, larger than that of *Eversharp Skyline* at same price.

C. Not Recommended

- **Diamond Point** (No maker's name

shown on pen) \$1. • Writing qualities, poor. • Ink capacity, good. Lever-filler. • Like the \$1 *Wearever*, it has a dull-gold-colored point made of silver palladium alloy and so marked. • Cap and barrel are of attractive design and fairly well finished, price considered. ¶ This is a new pen now being widely sold in department stores.

► *Wearever* (David Kahn, North Bergen, N.J.) \$1. • Writing qualities, fair. • Ink capacity, very poor. Transparent feed section. Lever-filler. • Finish, poor. • This is one of several new fountain pens with point made of a yellowish alloy of silver and palladium, a substitute material developed to meet the restrictions imposed by the government upon use of stainless steel for

points of cheap fountain pens. (This alloy is considered not comparable in serviceability with white silver-palladium alloy used in the \$3.50 *Esterbrook* pens, or the chrome-nickel alloy formerly used by *Esterbrook* in their \$1 pens.)

► *Wearever De Luxe Presfil* (David Kahn) \$1. • Writing qualities, very poor. • Ink capacity, below average. Push-button filler similar to that used originally by *Parker*. • Has a gold point, but this is thin and narrow, and is held by a support or backing piece of stainless steel alloy. • Finish, poor. ¶ This pen has been in very wide sale in 10-cent stores ever since their regular sources of supply of 20- to 30-cent pens have failed them.

► *Wearever Zenith* (David Kahn)

\$1.95. • Writing qualities, poor. • Ink capacity, unusually poor. Lever filler. • This pen, now being widely advertised and sold in many types of stores, including 10-cent stores, is one of the few now available under \$3.50 which has a gold point. The point, of relatively poor quality and not well shaped, was not sufficient to offset the pen's disadvantages. • Finish, only fair.

► *Conklin* (Conklin Pen Co., Chicago, Ill.) \$1.

► Stylographic pens or "ink pencils." Stylo-type pens usually clog or become unusable after a short period of use. They are not pleasant to write with. A great many pens of this type are sold; their principle seems attractive on first examination, but very few are seen in actual and regular use by consumers.

How to Burn Soft or Bituminous Coal Efficiently

IN THE WEST and middle west bituminous or soft coal is the common solid fuel used for heating of homes; in the eastern states, anthracite or hard coal is the favored fuel. This year, with a very difficult coal situation, there is a strong possibility that many home owners who have been accustomed to burning anthracite will be unable to secure sufficient hard coal to fill their needs. Many, however, will be able to secure some soft coal to eke out their supply. Some of those who have never burned soft or bituminous coal before may not realize that it requires an entirely different technique in firing than anthracite. Both fuels have approximately the same heat content per pound, but bituminous coal contains several to many times as much volatile (gassy) matter as anthracite does and gives off smoky gases when burned.

There are methods of firing by which the production of smoke can be reduced to an acceptable minimum without reducing the efficiency of the

furnace. The most important rules for burning bituminous coal in a hand-fired heating plant are, briefly:

(I) Fresh coal is to be added only after sufficient coal has been burned in the fuel bed to permit clearing a space down close to the grate equal to at least one-fourth the grate area. An oblique-angled poker, similar to that shown in Figure 1, should be used to move all hot coals from that part of the grate which is to receive the fresh charge. The clinkers that remain should be broken up with the poker and the poker is then used as a probe to work the fine ash through the grate.

(II) Place the coarser pieces of coal in the fresh charge at the bottom, the fine particles

on top and at side of firepot.

(III) So far as practicable, do not put fresh coal on top of the hot coals.

(IV) After refueling the furnace as explained, break up the live coals with the poker.

(V) Before leaving the furnace, make certain that the hot coals have ignited the gas. Sometimes it may be necessary to use lightly-crumpled burning paper to ignite the gas coming off the fresh charge of coal.

(VI) Always keep the ash pit clear of ashes to insure a good distribution of air and prevent burning out of grates.

Those who are wholly inexperienced with soft-coal firing will find additional information with good illustrations of the method in Circular 46, "Hand

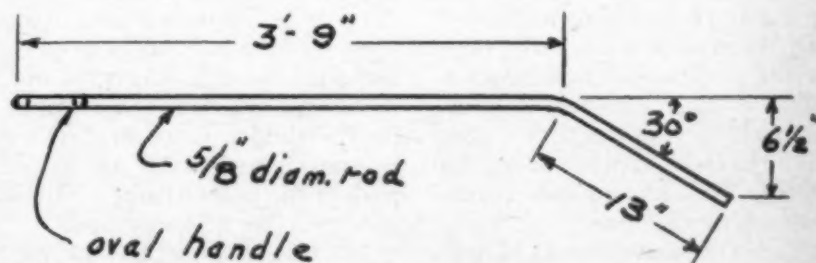


Figure 1

Firing of Bituminous Coal in the Home," free from the University of Illinois, Urbana. A chart showing the various steps in hand-firing bituminous coal (identified as Briefs from Circular 46) which can be hung near the furnace, is also available free from the Engineering Experiment Station, University of Illinois.

Additional Bituminous Coal Operating Tips

1. In general a soft coal fire responds more quickly to increases in draft than does anthracite. In fact, under favorable conditions of fuel bed and draft, the fire can be "picked up" from a relatively low fire to a "roaring blaze" in about two minutes' time. Thus, care must be taken, in burning soft coal, that the fire does not "run away" and reach excessively high temperatures, that may damage the furnace, the smokepipe, or the chimney, or set nearby woodwork to smouldering.

2. When bringing up the heat, do so gradually, or by several stages, rather than in one big increase. Furnaces subject to "jack rabbit" starts and high intensity firing may be depreciated seriously in a few years.

3. The opening in the firing door, which admits air over the fuel bed, should be left open, particularly for a period of 1 or 2 hours after new coal is added.

4. When the fuel bed is in a partly coked condition, that is, when the coals are somewhat plastic or "gummy," any stirring of the fuel bed will result in a large evolution of smoke and gases. Hence, in general, the fire should not be stirred until after the coal charge has been completely coked.

5. Some coals, particularly those of the Pocahontas type, tend to cake or fuse together, and the coke charge may need breaking up if the fuel bed does not respond readily to heat demands several hours after charging.

6. If the furnace tends to overheat the house in mild weather,

even with no opening of the ash-pit draft flap, be sure that the ash-pit door closes tightly, and that the check damper in the smokepipe opens wide. A tight fitting ash-pit door will hold or clamp paper of the thickness of paper currency when the door is closed. The tightness of the firing door is not as important as the tightness of the ash-pit door, for with an ash-pit door which does not close tightly, it is often difficult to prevent a furnace from overheating and so wasting a good deal of coal.

7. The best method of preventing overheating in mild weather is to allow ashes to accumulate on top of the grate bars, and not underneath, and to make a small fire in a hole in the accumulation of ashes in the firepot.

8. If there is a cross or butterfly damper in the smokepipe, open it as wide as possible to give free flow for fuel gases.

9. In severe weather, it is better practice to fire two or three small charges of coal at say three or four hour intervals, than to fire one very large charge of coal.

10. **Item V previously discussed in this article is extremely important. If the firing door is closed without the appearance of flames, the gases may accumulate over the fire and may suddenly ignite, causing a "puffback" or a mild explosion. In some cases this explosion may be serious enough to damage or dislodge the smokepipe, particularly if the cross damper in the smokepipe is nearly closed. (See 8 above.)**

Do not leave the furnace when the coals are "stewing" gases and no live flame has appeared above the fuel bed.

11. When opening the firing door, stand to one side of the door and open the door slowly, so that in the case of a "puffback" caused by the sudden entry of air over the fire, your body is not in the path of the puff of flame. This is good practice with any coal.

12. The coal pile may be wetted down to minimize dust in

handling. There is little or no loss in efficiency when coal is slightly dampened. Small-sized coals benefit particularly from wetting.

13. To minimize ash dust, spray or pour water into the ashes in the ash-pit before removing the ashes, but don't use any more water than necessary, for it is important to avoid needless rusting of furnace parts and castings. When removing ashes, open up both the ash-pit door and the firing door. The slight amount of draft into the firing door opening may tend to pull some of the ash dust into the furnace, and so reduce the amount diffused in the air of the room.

14. Do not burn garbage in the furnace; to do so may lead to tarry deposits in the smokepipe or chimney.

15. Do not throw ashes on top of the fuel bed in an attempt to check the fire. Frequently this practice causes the formation of troublesome clinkers.

16. In shaking the grates, use moderation. The layer of ash on top of the grates serves to insulate the grates from the hot coals and protect them from excessive temperatures and burnouts.

A hand-fired coal fire if properly handled can result in a steady giving off of heat to the house. Some homeowners, who are willing to experiment in order to find the best operating condition, will find that if a nail or bit of wire is placed under the flap that acts as the ash-pit draft door, there will be sufficient air admitted under the fire-bed to give a more uniform liberation of heat than will be produced by the more usual open-and-shut, full-on full-off, method of controlling the draft. The opening should be small—not more than $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch.

Any method of control, whether it be a nail or wire under the ash-pit damper, or a complete set of automatic controls is desirable which will eliminate short periods of high-intensity firing (followed by a shutdown, and then another period of high-heat operation), and tend to provide for more uniform evolution of heat.

TOYS

LAST YEAR the toy-buying situation was pretty unfavorable from the standpoint of the consumer who had been accustomed to rich and varied offerings in toy-stores and department stores. The choice of toys in last year's Christmas season was nevertheless wider than will be found this year. It is quite likely that toward the end of the selling season, toy counters will be denuded of practically all toys except the simplest and least desirable sorts, for the consumers' demand this year will be exceptionally heavy, probably one-third or sixty to seventy million dollars more than the stores will have to sell. Sources in the trade have estimated that consumers will be lucky if toy stocks last this year until December 15 (although in normal times half the year's sales would take place between that date and Christmas), for only about 50% of the normal supply will be available.

The scarcity near Christmas time will be the worse because people who had trouble last year finding what they wanted for their own and their friends' children are buying toys much earlier than usual this year; the pre-season business has been remarkably large, going back at least for ten months. In part, the surprising activity in the toy business in the last year or two reflects the increase of purchasing power due to millions of people in war jobs, and in part it reflects the rapidly increasing proportion of young children in the population.

Neither retailers nor manufacturers are to blame for the unsatisfactory situation which many will find, for deliveries from the factories are seriously hampered by lack of materials; one of the most important elements is the shortage of cardboard containers essential for shipping. When the shipments of finished toys finally are received by the retailer, he will be

likely to find perhaps half (or even a smaller fraction) of the quantities ordered and expected, from the sources of supply he had most depended on. Some of the leading firms in the toy field are heavily involved in war production work of one kind or another. Some firms whose equipment was not suitable for conversion to war work have been so tied up with advance orders and so limited in the material and



A sand toy with hopper and wheel. An example of the use of wood and cardboard in the making of a jointed motion toy that would have been more durably made of metal in the pre-war period. This toy was not in operating condition when received; and when a toy made of such weak materials is defective or becomes so, it is very likely to be beyond successful or lasting repair.

labor available to them, that they are unable to accept new orders from dealers at all; quite often manufacturers have restricted shipments to dealers to a certain fraction of their preceding year's orders.

Toy sales are distributed approximately in the relationship of 40% to wholesalers for resale to small distributors; 30% to big chain stores; 30% to department

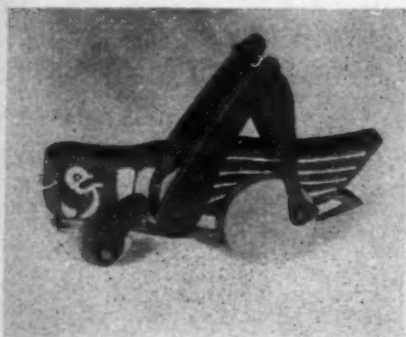
stores. This year, auto supply and tire stores, which are having great difficulty in making a living on sales of their regular types of goods, have become very large purchasers of toys. In some larger cities the toy trade tends less to be concentrated in department stores than in smaller cities; the reason for this is that in large cities there are frequently specialized toy stores, usually entirely lacking in smaller towns and cities. Sometimes in the latter, toys may be sold in a department of some drug, cigar, or stationery store, which will open up a special section for toys at the Christmas season.

The industry has made no metal or rubber toys since June 30, 1942, and as a digest of the recent problems of the industry put it, "the history of toymaking since the war has been the story of a retreat from one scarce material to another." It is safe to assume that any metal toys that are actually to be found were held over from late 1941 and early 1942.

The industry is not even permitted to use available scrap metal. The reasons for this are not good ones, for metal scraps and ends of thin material are not of any substantial importance for any other purpose and are not needed in war production. As a matter of fact, there are excess supplies of certain scrap metals available, and much scrap metal is of too low value for remelting to warrant use of congested transportation facilities to get it back to the steel mills. However, it seems to have been the idea that if people saw that toys were being made of metal, they would assume that there was some diversion of metal from essential work, or that there was plenty of metal to be had.

Except for very limited carry-over stocks on the shelves of a few fortunate or far-sighted firms, there will be no metal doll carriages, scooters, wagons, cameras,

bicycles, tricycles, or sleds with metal fittings and runners, and even wooden models of these devices will be unavailable in a good many cases. However, there will be some wooden coaster wagons and scooters, and many cardboard toys of new types, which have



A jointed or motion toy made of wood. This will stand a fair amount of wear and tear—it has fewer and more rugged parts than the sand toy illustrated.

been mechanized or jointed to some degree. Mechanical and electric trains are practically out, although a very few can sometimes be found in stores that have carried them over from purchases made a year or more ago.

A lucky father scouting sufficiently extensively in an exceptional market, such as New York City or Chicago, might even find an electric-eye kit or a buzzer-and-light telegraph or battery-telephone outfit, a movie or micro-projector, or some fitments or accessories for the boy's boat or electric train. Even a few toy music boxes have been seen, that might be found by the parent who is searching hard for the sort of gift that normally would be almost unobtainable in wartime. Roller skates like other "wheel goods" will be missing. Harmonicas and other musical instruments requiring metal will be practically unavailable for little boys, although there seems to be at least one American-made harmonica, presumably requiring only a very limited amount of restricted material. There will be some xylophones with wood and glass bars and tubes, and a few, perhaps,

with thin tubes of sheet metal. This year only a very few little boys can have their fun as budding scientists and engineers, with dry batteries and flashlight cells, toy motors, electro-magnets, lamps and searchlights.

Much of the emphasis this year will be on stuffed animals and dolls, but even stuffed animals will be less numerous than in previous years. Dolls will be fairly plentiful but not of the usual good quality and variety; they will be less well-dressed than hitherto, which will give need and opportunity for more home dressmaking. Because of shortages of materials, eyes and hair will be painted on; the material for making artificial hair is said to be almost unobtainable.

There will be a variety of pull toys for young children, made of wood and of cardboard, but most all of these will be of relatively perishable types, unless one has been lucky enough to buy something made at a time when the toy trade was able to adapt its operations to the needs of its customers rather than to the decrees of governmental administrators.

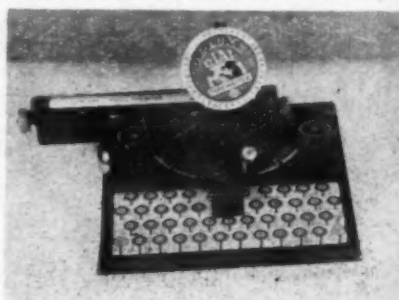
Many will be surprised to know that even wooden toys will be somewhat scarce, for the toy industry has been heavily cut as to its possibilities for obtaining all sorts of materials, and since unfortunately (and unwisely, we think) toymaking is regarded as a non-essential industry, the industry has labor problems of extreme difficulty.

There is an important morale aspect of the toy problem at this time which seems not to be appreciated in government agencies, in that a great many children, far more than in normal times, are unprotected or unattended in the home because of the absence of parents in war-plant jobs, or participating in civilian defense work, helping with the work of ration boards, and other wartime duties—or are spending extra time waiting their turn in a long line of customers in stores which are under-supplied and under-manned

and yet have to deal with many extra problems arising from price control and rationing and the handling of ration stamps. Under these circumstances, with the serious and continuous extra burdens they imply on the mothers' time and energy, the need for toys for children is very much greater, to keep the youngsters out of mischief and out of danger, and to help them avoid the psychological difficulties which often come with the lack of the customary companionship of the parent or parents.

Even the indispensable educational and child training toys have been cut in quantity. The "erector" and similar mechanical and constructional toys which have performed very valuable functions in educating boys particularly, in use of their fingers and of simple tools and in certain elementary physical and mechanical principles are pretty much out of the picture now, except in the form of substitutes, that are likely to be pretty unsatisfactory and short-lived, made of wood and cardboard.

There will be some magic and puzzle kits. It is said that these have definite value in developing ability to talk and perform before



A toy that would be a help in the teaching of spelling and the writing of sentences. This is one of the very few metal toys that can be found in any appreciable number in the stores this year. Price around \$2.25.

an audience, since to demonstrate his tricks before a group of his family or young friends, a boy must plan his show in advance and develop his own explanations and see to the organization and

proper continuity and entertainment value of the whole affair.

The game market has been greatly stimulated, no doubt due to the cut in automobile and train travel, and because with rationing there are fewer parties and get-togethers of groups of families and friends, and less easy access to theatres and other places of amusement for young and old. Military games are a strong seller this year.

Books will be available in quantity, and many more have been produced than in normal years, since the making of children's books, being highly mechanized, suffers less than other items from problems of material and labor shortage.

The most notable change in this year's market, other than the predominance of stuffed toys and dolls, is the die-cut toys of cardboard, which are often of military types, such as tanks, guns, forts, airplanes. Some of these are said to be not so susceptible to breakage and early wearing out as the older cardboard toys were. Certain improvements in processing and certain engineering principles have been applied in the making of joints so as to give them somewhat greater strength and wear resistance than was hitherto possible. This year's toy airplanes will be made chiefly of wood and cardboard.

The use of cardboard has gone so far that it is being used even in the making of children's toy chairs, with wood reinforcement bars to carry the weight and distribute it to the cardboard pieces. There are other new applications of cardboard in toys with jointed and moving parts to give a rolling or swinging motion, and these must now be all made without the use of rubber or metal parts and connections. This year even toy trains are made of cardboard, as well as of wood. (The seriousness of shortages of rubber, metal and certain types of plastics, etc., may be judged from the fact that more than half the toys produced in 1942 were made of these materials

which toy manufacturers are now forbidden to use.) It seems not desirable, in general, to accustom children to the use of toys which are so fragile and flimsy that they cannot stand reasonable use or even some abuse, and on this account perhaps parents should not buy cardboard and similar "destructible" toys of sorts which would seem likely to wear out very quickly, unless hardly anything else is obtainable.

Many of the expedients for cheapening of toys which have been imposed by government restrictions are obviously of a character that was not necessary, for the making of toys (although the industry does use a considerable volume of material *in toto*) really calls for an exceedingly small amount of material compared with many other really non-essential items that could be dispensed with (such, for example, as half or two-thirds of the governmental publicity that floods the mails from Washington).

This year there will be very few high-priced toys available. Practically all of the scientific and mechanical toys will be missing from the shops. Fair quantities of the popular toy chemical laboratory outfits for boys will be available. There will also be some toy microscopes, with wood substituted for metal, but some of the items in this field of toys are so scarce this year that the consumer may count himself lucky if he is able to buy any sort of scientific toy for his boy or girl having a possible or budding interest in science, mechanics, or engineering. This is a most unfortunate development, for there has never been a period when development of scientific and technical and skilled-craft interests in children was more important—indeed so vital to the future of our country. The various government officials having control over labor allocations and over allotment of materials in the toy industry have apparently failed to recognize that many sorts of toys have fundamental educational and training

value, and have disregarded an important consideration, viz., that if a child passes through the years in which he might have acquired an interest in or feeling for mechanical, electrical, or chemical phenomena, he may never have another chance to do so,—may miss a priceless opportunity to discover and develop a bent and skill in mechanics, radio, engineering, physics, bacteriology or medicine.

Beyond this is the fact that certain types of manipulative skills and spatial sense and judgment must be acquired at a certain age or not at all, or if acquired late will be achieved with far less ease and proficiency. Consumers and educators who are interested in these questions will, we hope, bring them to the attention of the government officials concerned, for it is surely most important that the coming generation of young people shall not longer be deprived of their opportunities to understand and experience in their own ways and at a suitable age the simple chemical, physical, optical, and mechanical phenomena that go with use of certain sorts of toys. Among such are chemical sets, telephone and telegraph kits, boats and planes made with metal, microscopes, mineralogy sets, cameras, magic lanterns, dry batteries, lamps, searchlights, erector and constructor outfits and toy engines, motors, construction machinery, and last and most important, miniature trains (some of these are favorite toys of fathers as well as of sons).

A few toys of this general sort made with the limited amounts of wood and plastic substances available, will be found in at least the larger stores, and parents whose boys or girls are of the proper age (10 or 12 to perhaps 17) to use and appreciate them will be wise to make their purchase just as soon as they possibly can.

Because of the shortage of clerks, there will be very unusual difficulties for toy stores and toy departments this year, and many

stores will have to do a good deal of their selling on a self-service basis, with many of the toys wrapped ready for delivery and without the purchaser having an opportunity for individual inspection of his purchase. Big-store toy departments, that might have 8 or 10 people during the year, would in normal times expand to well over 100 people during the Christmas season. This year they will be lucky to have half as many clerks and helpers as in peacetime.

* * *

Here are some of the kinds of toys you probably will have to choose from this year in addition to items which have already been mentioned:

Dolls	Dressmakers' sets
Archery sets	Toy sets of dishes
Dart games	Toy laundry sets
Croquet sets	Toy telephone sets
Table tennis	Sleds
Painting sets	Doll carriages and
Stuffed animals	strollers

Modeling clay sets, with wooden molds
Toy irons and ironing boards

Toy flower-pots and planting outfit, and water and sand-culture ("soil-less" plant culture) set, with seeds, sand, and chemicals

Washboards made of wood and glass
Doll houses and furniture, mostly made of cardboard, but a few of wood

Toy doctors' and nurses' kits

Pin and bowling alley games with balls
Toy buildings, railroad stations, model farm buildings, model circuses

Hobby and stick horses and bouncing ("pony" or "colt") toys

Cut-out action toys with joints controlled by strings

Blocks—A good variety is available. An interesting type of block toy (Gilbert) is made of ceramic ware with "cameo" figures (molded high-relief) of animals that can be reproduced as an imprint in sand, mud, or in plasticine or plaster. Special sets are available, too, of brick-like blocks in various shapes including squares, rectangles, triangles, etc., with other structural elements to go with them for making houses and other toy buildings.

Dressable pasteboard dolls with uniforms; cutout books of Waves, Wacs, etc.

Animated cartoons in the form of spinning picture-wheels

Wooden mannikins with jointed arms,

attachable hats, umbrellas, etc.

Wooden sailboats

Cardboard airplanes, airplane motors and instrument board models

Plaster molding and carving and painting toys

Picture-Craft—making pictures by attaching wood or cardboard cutouts to a background in a frame

Looms for weaving

Toy trucks, jeeps, autos, tanks. Toys related to the war and to the army, and navy, and other military services are exceedingly popular.

Wooden desk, tables, chairs

Pull-toys of wood and cardboard, including landing barges containing little wooden tanks and guns

Wooden scooters and wagons (but not wooden tricycles, because of the impossibility of devising satisfactory propelling mechanisms that could be made from non-scarce material)

A few ice skates, but not many; some ice skates with shoes attached may require ration stamps

Guns and pistols, but pretty poor in design and quality, and very few are available that "work" or simulate firing or produce a noise or trigger action. Some will even be made of plaster and synthetic materials of poor quality and durability.

A study of this year's market indicates that in so far as there are resources in the home for the making of playthings of good and durable quality, they should by all means be utilized. One good item of this sort is the making and fitting out of a box for tools, the individual tools being purchased in the 10-cent store; nails, screws, hooks, and the like, also purchased in the 10-cent store, may be included, in small wood or metal boxes, or in compartments made in a tray of the tool-box.

The following are suggested as sources of information on the making of toys and play equipment at home. This type of literature will be well worth parents' consideration at this time as it will help one to find and make toys that have lasting play values and are useful in the education and training of the child.

Things Any Boy Can Make, by Joseph Leeming. The Century Co., New York City. \$2.

More Things Any Boy Can Make, by

Joseph Leeming. The Century Co., N. Y. C. \$2.

Toys You Can Make—Extension Circular 5519, University of Nebraska Agric. College Extension Service, Lincoln, Nebr. First copy free; 3c for each additional copy; discount on 100 copies or more.

Better Buymanship Bulletin No. 15, Children's Playthings and Books. Includes a discussion of "home-made accessories" and of play with boxes, corrugated and crepe paper, sawdust, soap, kegs, pieces of linoleum, etc. Household Finance Corp., 919 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago. 3c.

Homemade Toys and Play Equipment, Extension Bulletin 216, Michigan State College, Extension Div., East Lansing, Mich. 1 copy free.

Toys That Can Be Made at Home—Extension Circular 546, Univ. of Ill., Extension Service in Agric. and Home Economics, Urbana, Illinois.

Amateur Craftsman's Cyclopedia of Things to Make, Grosset & Dunlap, N. Y. C. \$2.50. An interesting book that would make a good gift for the older or scientific- or craft-inclined boy. Over 300 pages of interesting items on handicraft work with all sorts of varied material, telling how to mold plaster ornaments, to make various toys and models, to build a combination desk and work-bench, to make magic tricks, picture projectors, throwing darts, bookends, and hundreds of other interesting diversions and hobbies.

Make it for the Children, prepared by Page Kirk. Available at 50c from the Association for Childhood Education, 1201 Sixteenth, N. W., Washington, D. C.

READERS who have copies of CR's November 1942 BULLETIN for which they do not have further use, are invited to send them to Consumers' Research. The stock of this number is entirely exhausted, and a few are needed for libraries which require copies in good condition to replace worn ones that have been used in reading rooms, so that a complete set of bulletins in new condition will be available for binding.

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July 1943 through December 1943

(Vol. 12, No. 1 through Vol. 12, No. 6)

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Disadvantages in High-Carbohydrate Diet

RECENT STUDIES have indicated the value for tuberculosis patients of a diet low in carbohydrates (sugars, starches, cereals, etc.) and high in proteins (meat, fish, eggs). Dr. Benjamin P. Sandler, Lieutenant-Commander in the Navy Medical Corps, and Dr. Rudolph Berke, Captain in the Army Medical Corps, have presented important evidence which indicates that a high-carbohydrate diet is a prime factor in lowering resistance to other diseases. They found that a low-carbohydrate and a high-protein diet eliminated colds in persons subject to them, thus confirming findings of Frederick H. Hoelzel, physiologist at the University of Chicago, in 1928. Dr. Sandler has also noted beneficial effects from high-protein low-carbohydrate diets in the treatment of certain diseases such as peptic ulcer, angina pectoris, high blood pressure, chronic abdominal pains, and certain nervous disorders. The over-use of carbohydrates tends to produce a condition in which the body is unable properly to use the oxygen which enters the lungs. Then it easily falls a victim to various disease conditions and weaknesses.

A diet rich in sweets, starches, cereals, and starchy vegetables, for example, bread and potatoes, reduces the liver's output of glycogen, which is best made by the liver out of the carbohydrate components of protein foods rather than from the common starchy or sweet cereals, vegetables and fruits. This is an interesting discovery indeed, for one would ordinarily assume that glycogen, which is a

carbohydrate substance akin to both starch and sugar and the only form in which carbohydrate is found in the bodies of animals, could be more easily produced by the body from food substances containing sugar and starch.

Confirmation of these findings is seen in studies reported by Drs. McCay, James, and Barnes of Cornell University. These investigators found that with animals, the normal span of life could be lengthened considerably by feeding a low-calory-low-fat diet fully adequate in protein, inorganic nutrients (minerals) and vitamins. The test animals fed on the high-protein diet, though kept in unheated quarters throughout the winter, were never sick, were more active than other puppies, and "were always full of life." Furthermore, these puppies showed special resistance to an infection which swept through the kennel during the winter, a result which would appear to confirm the findings already mentioned regarding the value of a diet high in protein in improving resistance of the body to infectious diseases.

Among the carbohydrate foods that were completely avoided in the low-carbohydrate diet used by Dr. Sandler and Dr. Berke in their research were: bread, cereals, potatoes, sugar, corn, rice, tapioca, split peas, noodles, macaroni, spaghetti, cake, candy, ice cream, pancakes, etc. Carbohydrate foods were eaten only in the form of fruits containing 10 percent or less, and vegetables containing 5 and 10 percent or less of carbohydrate.

In another paper, Dr. Sandler has written that he considers that the fundamental cause of many important pathological states is in the main *consumption of carbohydrate-rich foods*. In his opinion, good nutrition means not only sufficient calories and food in adequate quantities and quality, but also a greater amount of protein and fat, and a far smaller amount of carbohydrate-rich foods than present-day standards permit. "I would recommend," said Dr. Sandler, "that the consumption of carbohydrate rich foods by human beings be ultimately discontinued. Carbohydrates should be ingested only in the form of 5 and 10 percent vegetables and fruits."

Among widely consumed vegetables and fruits that would be excluded by this recommendation are the ones that follow. In this list, items marked with an asterisk (*) are especially high in carbohydrate content, being well above the 5 and 10 percent levels referred to by Dr. Sandler, and in all cases having a carbohydrate content of 15 to 18 percent or more. Foods marked with a double asterisk (**) are those which contain even higher carbohydrate contents:

Sour cherries, apricots, raspberries, apples*, raisins**, peaches, pineapple, plums, canned* and fresh** prunes, corn**, figs*, grapes*, parsnips*, pears*; navy*, kidney*, and fresh lima** beans, potatoes*, sweet potatoes**, bananas**, persimmons**, blackeye peas**, cowpeas**, and various fruit juices, including apple, blueberry*, pineapple, orange, peach.

What Type of House Slipper Should a Woman Wear?

NOW THAT SHOE rationing has made it necessary to make one's shoes last as long as possible, house slippers, bedroom slippers, loungers, call them what you will, have assumed new importance—particularly in view of the fact that most of such footwear is unrationed. In normal times, slippers in wide variety of styles, colors, and materials customarily made their appearance in November and December for Christmas gift shoppers. At present, many stores have slipper "bars" the year round. Feet that are tired from the extra walking in these days of transportation and gasoline shortage require the comfort and relaxation of a pair of soft slippers when their trek over hard office or factory floors and street pavements is done.

How to Select

Slippers should be selected with their function clearly in mind. The heelless, backless type called "scuffs" are very convenient for slipping on easily for a midnight journey to the bathroom or after a shower when the feet are damp. They are not, however, at all well suited for extensive wearing around the house while doing the morning chores. Slippers worn for this purpose should be as carefully selected as shoes.

Following the advice given by Dr. M. Beckett Howorth in "What to Look for in Buying Shoes," in CR's July 1943 issue, be sure that the sole is flat but flexible. The upper should cover the foot smoothly and hold the slipper snugly in place without exerting undue pressure anywhere. One measure of the quality of a slipper

will be its ability to keep its shape during its useful life. There should be plenty of room for the toes so that they are not cramped either by a slipper which is too narrow, or one which is too pointed and not high enough to accommodate them. In general, the inside edge of the toe of the slipper should lie along a straight line connecting the toe and the heel and should be round rather than pointed in shape.

What to Look For

It is obvious, of course, that a soft slipper of felt, chenille, velvet, or other fabric will readily adapt itself to the contour of the foot on which it is worn, where a stiffer shoe cannot so readily make this adjustment. On the other hand, a slipper which does not fit properly, no matter what material it is made of, will lose its shape and appearance quickly and in spite of its softness may be uncomfortable. For best wearing quality and support of the foot, a slipper with a sole of cowhide-leather is to be preferred. Unfortunately, many slippers of this type are rationed, although a government release points out that no ration stamp is required if such sole leather conforms to certain light-weight specifications.

An open toe makes for coolness, while a hard or stiff closed toe in a slipper gives greater protection against the collision of one's toe with a hard piece of furniture in the dark. This is a hazard which is much more common than most people appreciate, for one may often forget a change of position of some familiar article of furniture or a child's toy may be left in an

unexpected spot. A physician who had four cases of broken toes in one month from this cause, recommends that a flashlight always be at the bedside, or that some convenient method of lighting be provided that will light the floor but not wake another occupant of the room.

In a drafty or poorly heated country home, warm slippers of the sheepskin variety, for example, will be very comfortable in cold weather. Where the house is always warm, however, such slippers are undesirable. Feet are very susceptible to temperature changes, and the wearing of slippers that overheat the feet may render them more susceptible to cold when the slippers are removed. Slippers that are too warm for the place or season also have a tendency to encourage development of the foot ailment known as "athlete's foot."

It is especially important to select for hard wear a slipper in which the counter is sufficiently strong to hold its shape, particularly when the feet are hastily thrust into the slippers without the use of a shoehorn. A broken-down counter is not only unsightly and sloppy in appearance, but will not afford the proper support. Scuffs and mules should be avoided by women with "weak ankles." While they are easy to slip on, they are also easy to slip out of, and their wearer's chances of twisting or spraining an ankle are thereby greatly increased. Mules, particularly those with high heels, are especially dangerous because of the risk involved of turning the ankle or straining the arch. They should be considered as purely decorative, an ornament on the bed-



Balalaika Scuffs (Joyce, Inc., Pasadena, Calif.) \$2.45. Black velvet with black velvet covered platform soles and wedge heel lined with red sailcloth, with red sailcloth soles. Colored yarn decorations. Design good of its type. Toe broad and rounded. Heel seat properly cupped to fit. Workmanship good, but these slippers had paper innersole. Sailcloth sole would not stand up under hard wear.

OOmphies (La Marquise Footwear, Inc., 137 Varick St., New York City) \$2.50. Red plush scuffs with open toe, platform soles, and wedge heel. In design similar to *Balalaika*, but not quite so good. Did not come up quite so far on foot, and heel seat bulged upward somewhat affording no proper base for the wearer's heel. Treated fabric sole was sloppily glued on and some of the adhesive was smeared on portions of the plush fabric.



Amerikoolies (Tull Footwear, Inc., 154 Lawrence St., Brooklyn 1, N.Y.) \$5. Brown leather "wedgie" with bottom-sole of thin leather, open toe, sling strap heel. Platform sole and wedge heel covered with brown gros-grain. Soft leather uppers, lined with felt. Heel strap might cause some pressure on back of ankle unless it happened to fit fairly loosely; short piece of elastic provided some "give." Sole was somewhat rigid (undesirable) but could be softened by repeated bending. Workmanship good.



Loafer (Daniel Green Co., 350 Fifth Ave., N.Y.C.) \$5.45. Red leather uppers with light-weight leather sole. Should have been one of the best slippers of the lot, but were poorly shaped. The toe was too pointed and not sufficiently high. Upper part of heel at the back was too narrow. Lining was of leather, but innersole was of paper composition.



Sheepskin-Lined Slippers with soles of leather (Montgomery Ward, Baltimore, Md.) Cat. No. 23-3118. \$2.98 plus postage. Brown. Fine kind of slippers for cold, drafty houses. Strip covering seam down center of toe was imitation leather. Otherwise quality and workmanship were fair.

room shoe rack, or worn only on ceremonial occasions.

Quality of Present Materials

Under pressure of government restrictions on the use of leather and other durable materials, manufacturers are using paper and paper composition for innersoles and heel pads in many cases. Damp feet, whether from bath or shower or normal perspiration, will cause the paper to swell and get lumpy. Under such circumstances, discomfort may be caused, and obviously slippers that are made with paper if worn extensively will have a short life compared to those that are of leather throughout. Whether women prefer style and frequent change or novelty to long life in an article of wearing apparel is an oft-debated question. If, however, a pair of slippers is sought for extensive wear about the house, it may be wise to select something along the lines of the low-heeled moccasins, even if it requires a shoe ration stamp.

CR's Test

In examining the various slippers bought for test, it was noted that with the exception of the Joyce slippers, the Amerikoolies wedgies, the I. Miller mules, and possibly the loafers made by Daniel Green, the workmanship was pretty poor.

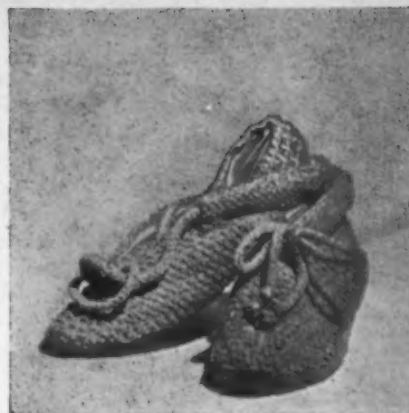


Seams were badly finished in some cases, stitching was coarse in others. Where soles were affixed by some adhesive, this was often found smeared on the material of the uppers. The red plush OOmphies, in addition to smears on the fabric near the soles, had two smears on the top of one of the slippers so that the material was matted in unsightly fashion; these slippers appeared to be neatly made otherwise.

The Daniel Green Company frankly recognized this lowering of standards in a little slip enclosed with its slippers which reads in part: "War conditions however have made it impossible to obtain satisfactory cleaners, various adhesives and many other materials as well as experienced labor so necessary to maintain uniformity and those touches of refinement obtained when conditions were normal." The company's candor is to be commended, although consumers who have read press releases and listen to radio announcements of the tremendous battle the OPA is supposed to be putting up to prevent deterioration of consumer goods may well wonder whether some of the energy this agency is putting into press releases might not better be expended in helping manufacturers secure raw materials they need and adequate help.

The slippers in this group all had padded soles covered with a soft lightweight leather in various finishes. The padded innersole of one of the slippers is shown second from the left. It consists of loosely felted coarse fibers. A slipper of this construction would not be durable, nor firm enough to offer adequate support to the foot. It should not be worn for any length of time by a person with weak feet. The workmanship of slippers in this group was poor; seams were coarse and not well finished.

Bedtimer Booties (Kleinert Co., 485 Fifth Ave., N.Y.C.) Sears-Roebuck's No. 15-3674. \$2.49 plus postage. Blue chenille crocheted top with soft, suede-like leather soles. Good design for brief periods of wear. Sole, very lumpy, which might be uncomfortable if worn for any length of time. Inner-sole was of paper composition. Adhesive used to affix sole to upper was smeared on the material of the uppers at several points.



Mule (I. Miller, 450 Fifth Ave., N.Y.C.) \$3.95. Wine-colored kid. Poorest design of all slippers studied. Chance of turning ankle with a mule-type slipper is great because there is nothing to hold the foot in place. Strap over back of ankle might cut if it fit sufficiently to anchor slipper to foot. Afforded no support to foot. The higher and narrower the heel of this type of slipper, the greater the danger of wrenching the ankle or of straining the arch. Such footwear should be considered only as a decoration. Workmanship good, but had a paper composition innersole.



Plush Slippers (Endicott Johnson, Endicott, N.Y.) \$2. Royal blue plush lined with red. Color and texture gave appearance of warmth that would be something of an illusion. For real slipper warmth, the sheep fleece-lined slippers will be much more satisfactory. Sole was of suede-like leather stiffened by a cardboard innersole. Entire slipper felt unpleasantly hard, yet did not afford firm support for the foot. Workmanship was not good.



Men's House Slippers - - Unrationed

THE UPPERS of house slippers may be of leather, imitation leather, or fabric. They are designed to give a comfortable or easy fit. The sole may be either soft or stiff. There are three principal types of men's slippers:

1. The *Opera*, which has a medium vamp and low back with open broad V's in the sides.

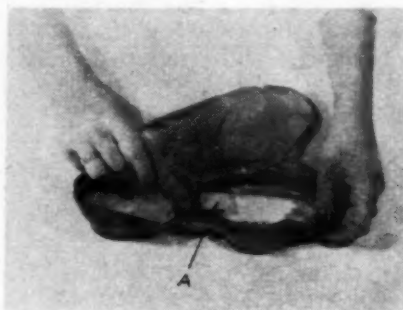
2. The *Everett*, which has a medium vamp and a low back, but level sides, not cut away.

3. *Faust*, *Romeo*, and *Nullifier* are terms used for a variety of high-cut slippers with low sides and a high vamp coming well up on the instep. The *Romeo* has a U-shaped elastic goring at the sides.

Irrespective of the type of slipper purchased, there are certain necessary requirements if a slipper is to provide long wear, comfort, good appearance, and safety. Comfort in a house slipper, meant for lounging rather than walking or work requiring one to stand, depends upon flexibility and easy fit, with no pressure or squeeze at any point. Flexibility depends upon the method of construction and the thickness of the sole. The turned slipper gives the most flexible sole construc-

tion; it derives its name from the fact that the sole and uppers are sewn together while wrong side out on the last, and then turned right side out. The cemented type is next in order of flexibility, with the McKay and welted types giving the least flexible sole, due to the midsoles, lasting tacks and stitching used.

Slippers, except the *Romeo* type, are held on the feet by the vamp and the construction of the back. Slippers which do not fit properly in this respect



A view of one of the dissected slippers, with the wood shank piece shown at A.

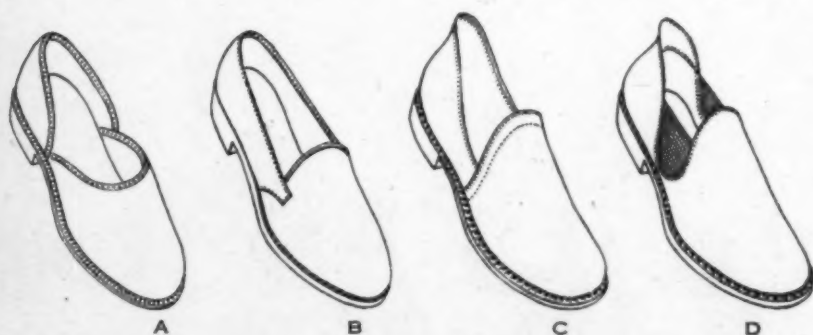
are not only uncomfortable to walk in but a constant annoyance, and give some hazard of tripping or stumbling. Care should therefore be taken in purchasing to insure that the slipper hugs the foot securely,

yet comfortably, in walking.

The edge of the vamp, a part that receives considerable wear in the *Opera* and *Everett* types, should be designed to resist tensile and abrasive stresses. The upper leather of all the samples tested by CR was considered adequate for tensile stresses, but their abrasion resistance varied widely.

The best slippers should have a steel and leather shank in the region where the sole and heel adjoin; in all samples tested, however, the leather had been replaced by cardboard. The steel, due to restrictions, had been generally replaced by wood or cardboard. In some slippers wood is fairly satisfactory, but cardboard alone cannot of course furnish the required strength. The midsole, when used (no midsoles are used in turned slippers), should be light, of good material, and able to flex without cracking. Insoles should be firmly attached throughout with water-resistant glue and all linings should be smooth and free from bumps and wrinkles.

Finally, a high-grade slipper (disregarding wartime restrictions on the use of high-grade leather) should have a select top-grain vegetable-tanned cowhide sole of the maximum thickness consistent with flexibility, should have uppers of high-grade kidskin (for lightness) with linings and insole of a sturdy weight of top-grain sheepskin, and a rubber composition heel which does not mark floors. A leather heel is preferable to a poor rubber one, but does not give the safety of rubber in walking on stairs and on smooth floors. Most slip-



Various types of men's slippers: A, the popular Opera; B, the Everett, a better and more practical type of slipper for general use; C and D, examples of high-cut slippers, known in the trade as Faust, Romeo, or Nullifier.

pers are not orthopedically desirable where much walking is to be done in them, for they do not adequately support the feet. They should be worn only when the wearer is relaxed and a minimum amount of walking is done; they are in order for reading and writing, and for bedroom and bathroom use, and to protect the feet from drafts. In cold weather or in a drafty, poorly heated house, fleece-lined slippers of the bootie type are best for protection of the feet from the cold air-currents that move along the floor.

CR's Test

Study of the stocks in retail stores revealed that the *opera type* of men's house slipper was by far the most popular type among people who buy their slippers at shoe stores; in a number of stores it was the only type available, apparently on account of its relatively dressy appearance compared with other types of slippers—which fact also makes it a favorite birthday or Christmas gift. Although it is recognized that the opera-type slipper is at a disadvantage in some cases in respect to comfort and durability, it was chosen for CR's tests on account of its great popularity with consumers and in shoe-store stocks.

One slipper of each pair was carefully dissected to disclose the construction details, and samples were cut from the soles for abrasion tests. Examination or tests were also made of the counters, vamped edges, shank pieces, midsoles when present, insole gluing, upper leather, insole, lining, and the heels. Tests were also made for flexibility (the slipper's ability to bend upward at the shank) and the appearance of each brand was

judged subjectively. 100 points were apportioned between the various properties according to their importance. For example, heels were given a maximum of 10 points. Leather heels received a possible 8 points out of 10 because of their lesser desirability from the standpoint of safety, as compared with good rubber heels. On the other hand, rubber heels which marked the floor very badly received 4 points out of a possible 10. Unless otherwise noted, the upper leather of the slippers was goatskin ("kid"), or possibly cabretta, a sheep leather of similar character.

A. Recommended

Flormate W 133 (The Florsheim Shoe Co., 541 W. Adams, Chicago) \$4.95.

A turned slipper of good appearance and medium flexibility. Sole made of split leather of above-average thickness and durability. Upper leather of excellent quality. Lining of upper and insole of sheepskin of good quality. No midsole. Shank made of cardboard and steel. Vamp edge of inserted leather. Heel, leather. Workmanship average.

Coward (Coward Shoe Co., Inc., 270 Greenwich St., N.Y.C.) \$3.95.

A turned slipper of fair appearance. Very flexible slipper. Sole made of split leather of above-average thickness and durability. Upper leather of below-average quality; lining of upper of sheepskin of lower than average quality. Insole of sheepskin of average quality. No midsole. Shank made of cardboard and steel. Vamp edge of self-rolled leather. Heel, leather. Workmanship average.

Douglas 400 (W. L. Douglas Shoe Co., Brockton, Mass.) \$3.75.

A turned slipper of good appearance. Very flexible slipper. Sole made of

split leather of above-average thickness and durability. Upper leather of below-average quality. Lining of upper and insole of sheepskin of above-average quality. No midsole. Shank made of cardboard and steel. Vamp edge of self-rolled leather. Heel, rubber composition, with the undesirable characteristic of marking the floor. Workmanship above average.

Regal (Regal Shoe Co., Whitman, Mass.) \$3.45.

A turned slipper of fair appearance. Very flexible slipper. Sole made of split leather of above-average thickness and durability. Upper leather of excellent quality. Lining of upper of sheepskin of above-average quality; insole of sheepskin of average quality. No midsole. Shank made of cardboard. Vamp edge of inserted patent leather. Heel, rubber composition which marked floor very badly. Workmanship somewhat above average.

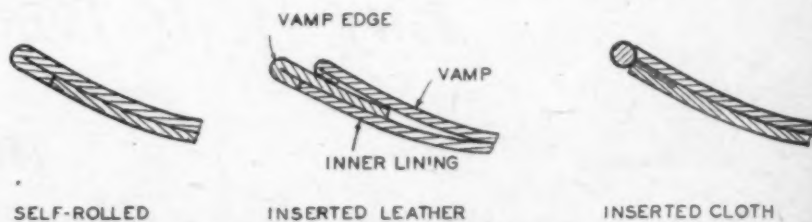
Stetson Stock No. 9200 (Distributed by Stetson Shoe Co., Inc., South Weymouth, Mass.) \$4.

A turned slipper of good appearance, not flexible. Sole made of split leather of well-above average thickness and durability (thickest sole of any slipper tested). Upper leather of below-average quality. Lining of upper of split leather of below-average quality. Insole of split leather of average quality. No midsole. Shank made of cardboard and steel. Vamp edge of inserted patent leather. Heel, leather. Workmanship above average.

B. Intermediate

Rest-Tyme Stock No. 13101 (Distributed by Walkover Shoe Stores) \$3.95.

Slipper of McKay type construction, of good appearance. Very flexible slipper. Sole made of split leather of below-average thickness and durability. Upper leather, below average in quality; lining of upper of sheepskin of above-average quality. Insole of sheepskin of average quality. Midsole made of thick



Enlarged Sectional Views of Types of Vamp Edge Constructions

pressed paper. Shank made of cardboard and wood. Vamp edge of self-rolled leather. Heel, leather. Workmanship above average.

John Ward (John Ward Men's Shoes, 25 W. 43 St., N.Y.C.) \$3.95. A slipper of the cemented type, of fair appearance and medium flexibility. Sole made of split leather of average thickness and durability. Upper leather of average quality. Lining of upper and insole of sheepskin of average quality. Midsole made of thin paper. Shank made of cardboard and wood. Vamp edge of inserted rolled patent leather. Heel, rubber composition of a type not marking the floor. Workmanship above average.

Bostonians Style 438 (Distributed by Bostonian Shoe Stores) \$3.95. A turned slipper of good appearance. Very flexible slipper. Sole made of split leather of above-average thickness and durability. Upper leather of very good quality. Lining of upper of sheepskin of average quality; insole of sheepskin of above-average quality. No midsole. Shank made of cardboard and steel. Vamp edge of inserted patent leather. Heel, rubber composition which marked floor somewhat. Workmanship above average.

Radio-Tyme (Distributed by Montgomery Ward, Cat. No. 24-4062) \$3.95 plus postage. A turned slipper of fair appearance. Very flexible slipper. Sole made of split leather of below-average thickness and durability. Upper leather above average in quality. Lining of upper and insole of split leather of below-average quality. No midsole. Shank made of cardboard and steel. Vamp edge of self-rolled leather. Heel, rubber composition which marked floor somewhat. Workmanship above average.

Nettleton 1001 L (A. E. Nettleton Co., Syracuse, N.Y.) \$3.95. Slipper of

McKay type construction, of good appearance. Very flexible slipper. Sole made of split leather of below-average thickness and durability. Upper leather of below-average quality (Cabretta). Lining of upper and insole of sheepskin of above-average quality. Midsole made of thick pressed paper. Shank made of two pieces of cardboard. Vamp edge of self-rolled leather. Heel, leather. Workmanship above average.

C. Not Recommended

John Alden (Jarmán Shoe Corp., 1441 B'way, N.Y.C.) \$2.95. A slipper of the cemented type, of fair appearance and medium flexibility. Marked "hand lasted" which would give the impression that the slipper was "hand turned," which it was not. Midsole, cardboard and felt. Shank, cardboard and wood. Vamp edge of corded lacquered cloth. Heel, rubber composition which marked floor badly. Workmanship average. This was the only slipper in the test that had a toe box.

Hanover (Distributed by Hanover Shoe, Sheppard & Myers, Inc., Hanover, Pa.) \$3.50. A slipper of the cemented type, of poor appearance. Very flexible slipper. Sole made of split leather of below-average thickness and durability. Midsole made of pressed paper and felt. Vamp edge of bound lacquered cloth. Heel, rubber composition which marked floor somewhat. Workmanship above average.

Sears-Roebuck's Cat. No. 67-3948. \$2.39 plus postage. A slipper of McKay type construction, of fair appearance; not flexible. Midsole made of cardboard and felt. Shank made of cardboard. Heel, rubber composition which marked floor very badly. Workmanship average.

Beck (A. S. Beck Shoe Corp., 25 W. 43 St., N.Y.C.) \$2.29. A slipper of the cemented type, of poor appear-

ance; not flexible. Insole of sheepskin of below-average quality. Midsole made of heavy paper and felt. Shank made of wood. Heel, rubber composition which marked floor somewhat. Workmanship below average.

Montgomery Ward's Cat. No. 24-3819. \$3.19 plus postage. A slipper of the "welted" type, of fair appearance. These slippers were not actually of true welt construction; the welt was fastened to the upper and outsole only, giving a false idea of sole thickness. Not flexible. Made of top-grain leather of below-average thickness and much below average durability. Midsole made of cardboard. Shank made of cardboard and wood. Vamp edge of inserted lacquered cloth. Heel, rubber composition which marked floor badly. Workmanship below average.

Thom McAn (Thom McAn Shoe Co., 25 W. 43 St., N.Y.C.) \$2.25. Slipper of the cemented type, of fair appearance. Very flexible slipper. Sole made of split leather of below-average thickness and much below average durability. Upper leather of below-average quality. Lining of upper and insole of split leather of below-average quality. Midsole made of thin paper. Shank made of cardboard and wood. Heel, rubber composition which marked floor very badly.

Sears-Roebuck's Cat. No. 67-3940. \$1.19 plus postage. Slipper of McKay type construction, of poor appearance and medium flexibility. Sole made of very thin top-grain leather of very low durability. Upper of artificial leather, undesirable. Lining of upper and insole of thin cloth of poor quality. Midsole made of cardboard. Shank made of cardboard. Heel, rubber composition which marked floor badly. Workmanship below average.



Buy War Bonds and Stamps

Serious Meat Shortage Believed Imminent

IT IS EXPECTED that about 47% of next year's meat supply will go to the Army and other governmental agencies, and if the allied arms are successful in various theaters of operation, even more may have to be taken to help feed the occupied countries. With reduced production, this may develop into a serious situation for the civilian consumer.

There is coming to market now as a result of the price control and "planning" operations of the OPA, a large supply of beef and mutton, but consumers should not assume that this represents an effective or permanent improvement in the supply. A large number of the animals being marketed are breeding stock, which means a serious reduction in future production. The breeding stock of hogs is already definitely reduced by the large number of "piggy sows" recently sent to market.

In the Midwest and parts of the West, the consumer can now spend all of her ration

points for meat because, for a change, there will be sufficient meat in the market to satisfy her coupons. There may even be some improvement in the meat supply in the East. An adviser well qualified in the meat field suggests that if possible the housewife should can some of her meat supply now against the time when she will have ration points to spend but no meat will be in the markets on which to spend them. By cutting meat consumption to a minimum now and storing some of what she can get with her ration points for future use, she will be able to have a little meat to eat when later on, in many places, there may be no meat available.

It is important that the canning should be done by the right method, or instead of coming out ahead, the consumer may lose by the process. The agricultural experiment stations at the agricultural colleges in every state can furnish reliable information on the proper canning of meat. There

is also a federal government bulletin containing helpful information, Home Canning of Fruits, Vegetables, and Meats, Farmers' Bulletin No. 1762, U. S. Department of Agriculture (revised 1942).

The government estimates that there will be 135 pounds of meat per capita during the year but neglects to mention that there is a 20% shrinkage between this carcass weight upon which they base their figures and what reaches the consumer's kitchen as raw meat. As a matter of fact, there is a possibility that even this quantity, when correctly presented by proper allowance for shrinkage, may not be available, since the government has issued a set-aside order for 45 to 50% of the beef slaughtered that grades AA, A, B, for government purchases. This may mean still less meat for civilians, for lend-lease, which uses a large percentage of the government purchases, seems not to want to yield up any of its buying power.

A Little Vitamin Goes a Long Way

ONE OF THE distinguishing characteristics of vitamins is that though they are present in food only in very minute quantities, mere traces as it were, they are nevertheless essential to health, growth, and development. In a pound of liver, there is only 20 *millionths* of a pound of riboflavin, yet liver is the richest known food source of this vitamin. Green vegetables, also relatively rich in riboflavin, contain only about one hundredth as much as liver,

or a five-millionth part of a pound per pound of food. Milk, liver, kidney, and eggs, all common foodstuffs, are rather poor sources of this vitamin. Riboflavin is considered possibly to aid the body in utilizing sulphur, which is one of the essential mineral substances (obtained largely from protein foods) affecting the body's structure and functioning. (Hair and nails contain sulphur com-

pounds.) The importance of riboflavin to man is not yet fully cleared up by the research done in this field, but it is an important constituent of the enzyme systems of the body, and it is understood that it does protect against certain skin conditions, digestive disturbances, deficiencies in bodily tone, and troubles with the eye, including possibly cataracts of a certain type that are known to be produced by nutritional deficiencies.

Off the Editor's Chest

(Continued from page 2)

requires 16 ration points a pound, a whole week's allowance of meat and fat points, while oleomargarine requires only 6 points. It may be only a coincidence, but one would have more confidence in the wisdom or disinterestedness of those who rationed butter so closely with more than 200 million pounds in government storage, if the advertising firm of Benton & Bowles, from which Mr. Bowles took a leave of absence in January 1942, did not handle the account for *Nucoa*, the leading brand of margarine at the present time. Mr. Bowles was Assistant Administrator of OPA at the time the increase in the point value of butter from 12 to 16 points took place. Since that time he has been made Administrator.

Shoe rationing was instituted to conserve leather. In a very short time after its inception, manufacturers with traditional American ingenuity had on the market, shoes of fabric or scrap materials with soles of plastic, wood, or resin-impregnated fibers. True, they were often not durable, but for that matter many leather shoes, particularly those in high fashion for women, have short life and exceedingly poor wearing qualities. Some women prefer fashion, novelty, or frequent change to rugged durability, and for them the non-rationed footwear does well enough. The wearing quality of certain plastic soles on the other hand has been reported to be fully equal to those of leather, and furthermore, the WPB has established minimum quality specifications for such outsoles.

Recently, there have been indications that behind the scenes the leather men may be putting tremendous pressure on the WPB to limit by rationing the purchase of shoes hitherto unrationed, on the ostensible ground that they use substantial quantities of material and considerable amounts of labor to produce and that many

of the unrationed shoes are trash and a waste of consumers' money. When a section of an industry competing with another section starts worrying about how *you* waste *your* money, and tries to protect you from poor quality in products of a competitor, it's time to watch out for some new restriction on your freedom to purchase what you like or need.

This is not to say that all businessmen take advantage or would care to take advantage of the war controls of production, distribution, and purchasing to eliminate price competition, to fix prices, to exclude competitive articles and services, and to form monopolies with the government's blessing (even though the WPB and OPA are ignoring the anti-trust laws freely, on the theory that government agencies can do as they please about enforcement and non-enforcement of laws enacted by the Congress). There are some enlightened sections of business which recognize that the control and supervision that go with government-managed trusts and cartels will penalize initiative and enterprise and will make the businessman who benefits by the controls a servant of government agencies rather than a free agent buying and selling in a competitive market.

It will be very difficult, for example, for a new firm to get started, if this type of control is strengthened. No one organization will be allowed to outdo another in performance or service, and efficient competitors will be obliged to charge in accordance with rates set on the basis of performance of the least efficient, or at any rate of the least efficient in the dominant trade group that sits with government administrators and decides who shall have how much of the market and how competitors are to be eliminated by restrictions on supplies, labor, transportation, financing, patent rights). With such a set-up, there will be no "undercutting" and hence there will be no incentive for a manufacturer to turn out a

competitive item, perhaps of equal or better quality, that can be sold to the consumer at a lower price.

Already the OPA has discovered to its sorrow that as a result of its price control policies many low-priced products, sometimes called low-end merchandise, have disappeared from the market. Gone the \$1 shirts for men, the 20-cent electric-iron connection cord and plug, the \$1 handbag for women, the \$1.59 cotton dresses, and many another familiar low-priced item. Those on fixed wages who have not benefited by the war boom have in effect received a cut in pay because they are forced to buy higher-priced merchandise, and government-compiled cost-of-living statistics ignore many such developments and so give an entirely false picture of living costs for those who have to get along on their old incomes.

There is at present an endless flow of articles, radio talks, and forums about post-war problems and plans. The general implication is that once we win the war we must have in readiness a big beautiful blueprint of the happy life that is to come. So far as consumers are concerned, however, they will find themselves better served if they do some very careful stock-taking of the present controls over industry and consumers, and ask rather searchingly whether certain control measures are really needed and are contributing to the winning of the war, or whether they represent an attempt of some group to gain power and control over industry and consumers for selfish ends.

In wartime when high aims and noble ideals are held up to us as the goals for which we are fighting, it is particularly important to make certain that our patriotic emotions are not taken advantage of to achieve some commercial end. Consumers will wish to know whether, for example, the shortage of butter is a real and necessary shortage, or whether it may be a convenient means for conditioning some millions of people to use of substitute spreads for bread.

Ratings of Motion Pictures



This section aims to give critical consumers a digest of opinion from a number of reviews, ranging from the motion picture trade press to Parents' Magazine, which rates motion pictures not only on their quality as entertainment but on their suitability in various aspects for children.

It should be emphasized that the motion picture ratings which follow do not represent the judgment of a single person but are based on an analysis of the reviews appearing in some 20 different periodicals. (See August 1943 issue for sources of the reviews.)

The figures preceding the title of the picture indicate the number of critics who have been judged to rate the film A (recommended), B (intermediate), and C (not recommended).

Audience suitability is indicated by "A" for adults, "Y" for young people (14-18), and "C" for children, at the end of each line.

Descriptive abbreviations are as follows:

adr—adventure	mus—musical
biog—biography	mys—mystery
car—cartoon	nov—dramatization of a novel
com—comedy	rom—romance
cri—crime and capture of criminals	soc—social-problem drama
doc—documentary	t—in technicolor
dr—drama	trav—travelogue
fan—fantasy	war—dealing with the lives of people in wartime
hist—founded on historical incident	wes—western
mel—melodrama	

A	B	C	
—	7	5	Above Suspicion.....war-com A
3	8	3	Action in the North Atlantic.....war-dr A
—	1	5	Adventure in Iraq.....war-mel A
—	4	6	Adventures of a Rookie.....war-com AYC
—	—	—	Adventures of Tartu (See Tartu)
—	3	8	Alaska Highway.....mel AY
—	4	7	All by Myself.....mus-com A
—	1	6	Always a Bridesmaid.....mus-com AYC
—	8	4	Appointment in Berlin.....war-mel A
—	1	2	Avenging Rider, The.....wes AYC
—	10	5	Background to Danger.....war-mel AYC
—	3	3	Bar 20.....wes AYC
4	8	4	Bataan.....war-dr A
—	13	6	Behind the Rising Sun.....war-dr A
—	2	3	Beyond the Last Frontier.....wes AYC
—	13	5	Best Foot Forward.....mus-com-t A
—	1	3	Billy the Kid in the Kid Rides Again.....wes AY
—	3	1	Billy the Kid in the Renegade.....wes AYC
—	3	2	Billy the Kid in Western Cyclone.....wes AYC
—	6	—	Black Hills Express.....wes AYC
—	2	4	Black Market Rustlers.....mus-wes AYC
—	1	8	Black Raven, The.....cri-mys AYC
—	4	1	Blazing Guns.....wes AYC
3	8	5	Bombardier.....war-dr AYC
—	4	9	Bomber's Moon.....war-mel AYC
—	—	5	Border Buckaroos.....mus-wes AYC
—	4	—	Bordertown Gun Fighters.....wes AYC
—	2	5	Boy from Stalingrad, The.....war-dr A
—	1	3	Calling Wild Bill Elliott.....wes AYC
—	2	3	Campus Rhythm.....mus-com AYC
—	3	1	Carson City Cyclone.....wes AYC
—	2	1	Chance of a Lifetime.....cri-mel AYC
—	6	3	Chatterbox.....mus-com AYC
2	9	4	China.....war-mel A
1	1	1	City That Stopped Hitler, The.....war-doc A
4	12	—	Claudia.....com A

A	B	C	
3	2	—	Coastal Command.....war-dr AYC
1	6	1	Colt Comrades.....wes AYC
2	9	5	Coney Island.....mus-com-t A
2	11	3	Constant Nymph, The.....dr A
—	5	4	Corregidor.....war-dr A
3	9	1	Corvette K-225.....war-mel AYC
—	2	4	Cowboy Commandos.....war-wes AYC
—	6	4	Cowboy in Manhattan.....mus-wes AYC
4	11	1	Crash Dive.....war-mel-t AY
—	5	—	Crazy House.....mus-com AYC
—	6	4	Crime Doctor, The.....cri-dr AYC
—	3	2	Dancing Masters, The.....com AYC
—	3	3	Danger, Women at Work.....com A
—	8	1	Dangerous Blondes.....cri-com A
—	3	3	Days of Old Cheyenne.....wes AYC
1	10	3	Destroyer.....war-mel AYC
—	15	3	Dixie.....mus-com-t A
1	3	2	Dr. Gillespie's Criminal Case.....mel A
1	8	7	DuBarry Was a Lady.....mus-com-t A
—	4	8	Falcon in Danger, The.....cri-mel AYC
—	6	3	Fall In.....war-com AYC
1	12	2	Fallen Sparrow, The.....war-mys A
—	1	3	False Faces.....cri-mys AYC
—	1	4	Find the Blackmailer.....mys-mel A
—	5	1	Fire in the Straw.....dr A
1	5	6	Fired Wife.....com A
—	9	7	First Comes Courage.....war-dr A
1	12	2	Five Graves to Cairo.....war-mel A
1	7	2	Flesh and Fantasy.....dr A
—	10	6	Flight for Freedom.....war-dr A
—	—	6	Follies Girl.....mus-com A
—	6	2	Follow the Band.....mus-com A
1	3	—	Footlight Glamour.....com A
9	7	3	For Whom the Bell Tolls.....war-dr-t A
—	8	2	Frontier Badmen.....wes AYC
—	4	3	Frontier Fury.....wes AY
—	4	2	Fugitive from Sonora.....wes AYC
—	3	7	Gals, Incorporated.....mus-com A
—	2	3	Gentle Gangster, A.....cri-mel AYC
—	5	4	Get Going.....mus-com AYC
—	2	1	Ghost Rider, The.....wes AYC
—	1	7	Ghosts on the Loose.....war-com AYC
—	1	12	Gildersleeve's Bad Day.....cri-com AYC
—	1	5	Gildersleeve on Broadway.....com A
1	8	—	Girl Crazy.....mus-com AYC
—	3	—	Girl from Monterey, The.....mus-com AY
—	3	5	Girls in Chains.....soc-mel A
—	2	6	Good Fellows, The.....com AYC
—	6	3	Good Luck, Mr. Yates.....war-dr AYC
—	1	6	Good Morning, Judge.....mus-com A
—	4	4	Great Mr. Handel, The.....mus-biog-t AYC
—	2	1	Guadalajara.....mus-com A
—	2	3	Guadalcanal Diary.....war-dr AY
—	1	2	Gyandev of India.....biog AY
—	2	2	Harvest Melody.....mus-com AYC
—	1	7	Headin' for God's Country.....war-mel AYC
—	7	2	Heart of a Nation, The.....war-mel A
4	14	—	Heaven Can Wait.....dr-t A
—	5	2	Henry Aldrich Swings It.....mus-com AYC
—	5	1	Here Comes Elmer.....mus-com A
—	3	4	Here Comes Kelly.....com AY
3	10	4	Hers to Hold.....war-mus-dr AYC
—	10	6	Hi Diddle Diddle.....war-mus-com A
—	1	13	Hit the Ice.....mus-com AYC
1	9	4	Hitler's Children.....war-dr A
—	6	6	Hitler's Madman (originally Hitler's Hangman).....war-dr A
—	3	1	Hi 'Ya Sailor.....mus-com A
3	14	—	Holy Matrimony.....nov-com A
—	4	5	Honeymoon Lodge.....mus-com A
—	5	1	Hoosier Holiday.....war-mus-com AYC
1	6	4	Hostages.....war-nov A

A	B	C	
1	9	1	I Dood It.....mus-com A
—	6	—	I Escaped from the Gestapo.....war-mel A
—	5	—	In Old Oklahoma.....mus-dr A
1	5	2	Iron Major, The.....biog AYC
—	1	3	Ile of Forgotten Sins.....adv A
—	5	4	It's a Great Life.....com AYC
1	5	1	Jeannie.....rom AYC
—	5	5	Jitterbugs.....mus-cri-com A
1	10	3	Johnny Come Lately.....dr AY
—	9	1	Kansan, The.....wes AYC
1	4	—	King of the Cowboys.....war-mus-wes AYC
—	5	4	Lady Bodyguard.....mel A
—	10	6	Lady of Burlesque.....cri-com A
—	13	2	Lady Takes a Chance, A.....com A
—	2	7	Larceny With Music.....mus-com A
6	7	2	Lassie Come Home.....nov-t AYC
—	5	1	Law of the Northwest.....mel AYC
—	3	3	Law Rides Again, The.....wes AYC
—	6	2	Leather Burners, The.....wes AYC
—	6	8	Leopard Man, The.....cri-mel A
—	11	8	Let's Face It.....war-mus-com A
—	2	5	Life of Simon Bolivar.....hist A
—	3	2	Lone Star Trail, The.....wes AYC
—	2	2	Mad Ghoul, The.....cri-mel A
—	8	4	Man from Down Under, The.....war-mel A
—	5	1	Man from Music Mountain.....mus-wes AYC
—	1	2	Man from Rio Grande, The.....wes AYC
—	3	—	Man from Thunder River.....wes AYC
—	5	1	Mantrap, The.....cri-mys AYC
—	5	3	Melody Parade.....mus-com AYC
—	4	—	Mexicali Rose (re-issued).....mus-wes AYC
—	2	7	Mexican Spitfire's Blessed Event.....com A
4	4	6	Mission to Moscow.....propaganda A
5	13	1	More the Merrier, The.....war-com A
—	8	7	Mr. Big.....mus-com A
2	9	3	Mr. Lucky.....cri-war-com A
—	6	2	Murder in Times Square.....cri-mel A
—	1	8	Murder on the Waterfront.....war-mel A
5	8	1	My Friend Flicka.....dr-t AYC
—	7	3	My Kingdom for a Cook.....com A
—	3	1	Mystery Broadcast.....mys A
—	3	5	Mystery of the 13th Guest, The.....mys-mel A
—	3	3	Nearly Eighteen.....mus-com A
—	3	—	Never a Dull Moment.....mus-com AYC
1	12	—	Next of Kin, The.....war-mel A
—	4	5	Night Plane from Chungking.....war-mel AY
—	4	2	Nobody's Darling.....mus-dr AYC
3	2	1	North Star, The.....war-dr-propaganda A
—	2	3	Northern Pursuit.....war-mel AYC
3	3	—	Our Lady of Paris.....doc AYC
2	6	5	Ox-Bow Incident, The.....wes-mel A
—	3	3	Paris After Dark.....war-mel A
—	1	2	Passion Island.....mel A
—	5	3	Passport to Suez.....war-mys AYC
—	5	3	Payoff, The.....cri-mel A
—	1	9	Petticoat Larceny.....cri-mel A
3	10	3	Phantom of the Opera.....mus-dr-t A
—	9	3	Pilot No. 5.....war-mel AYC
—	2	4	Prairie Chickens.....com AYC
2	4	2	Prelude to War.....doc A
1	8	3	Presenting Lily Mars.....mus-com A
1	8	—	Princess O'Rourke.....rom AYC
—	3	6	Redhead from Manhattan.....com A
—	2	1	Return of the Rangers.....mus-wes AYC
—	—	7	Revenge of the Zombies.....war-mel A
—	5	—	Ride, Tenderfoot, Ride (re-issued).....mus-wes AYC
—	2	4	Riders of the Rio Grande.....wes AYC
—	4	2	Robin Hood of the Range.....mus-wes AYC
1	1	3	Russian Story, The.....hist A
—	5	—	Saddles and Sagebrush.....mus-wes AYC
2	10	—	Sahara.....war-dr AYC
—	1	5	Saint Meets the Tiger, The.....cri-mel AYC
—	3	7	Salute for Three.....war-mus-com A
1	6	2	Salute to the Marines.....war-mel-t AYC
—	3	3	Sante Fe Scouts.....wes AYC
—	3	9	Sarong Girl.....mus-com A
—	1	7	Scream in the Dark, A.....mys A
—	—	11	Seventh Victim, The.....mys-mel A
8	8	—	Shadow of A Doubt.....cri-dr A
—	4	2	Shantytown.....com AYC
—	1	6	She Has What It Takes.....mus-com A
1	6	4	Sherlock Holmes Faces Death.....cri-mel AYC
2	2	2	Shrine of Victory, The.....war-doc AYC
—	4	3	Silver Spurs.....mus-wes AYC
—	—	—	Simon Bolivar (See Life of Simon Bolivar)
—	3	—	Six-Gun Gospel.....wes AYC
—	11	7	Sky's the Limit, The.....war-mus-com AYC
—	2	6	Sleepy Lagoon.....mus-dr AYC
7	10	2	So Proudly We Hail.....war-dr AY
—	1	7	So This Is Washington.....war-com AYC
—	10	1	Someone to Remember.....com A
1	5	1	Song of Texas.....mus-wes AYC
3	7	2	Spitfire.....war-biog AYC
—	7	2	Spotlight Scandals.....mus-com A
—	2	5	Spy Train.....war-mel A
5	10	3	Stage Door Canteen.....war-mus-com AY
—	3	5	Strange Death of Adolph Hitler, The.....war-mel A
1	12	2	Stormy Weather (all negro).....mus-dr A
—	3	1	Stranger from Pecos, The.....wes AYC
—	6	5	Submarine Alert.....war-mel A
—	3	4	Submarine Base.....war-mel A
2	13	2	Sweet Rosie O'Grady.....mus-com-t A
—	5	7	Swing Shift Maisie.....war-com A
—	4	2	Swing Your Partner.....mus-com AYC
—	5	8	Tahiti Honey.....mus-com A
—	11	4	Tartu.....war-mel A
—	3	2	Terror House.....mys-mel A
2	7	5	Thank Your Lucky Stars.....mus-com AYC
—	1	5	That Nazy Nuisance.....war-com AYC
1	7	1	They Came to Blow Up America.....war-mel AYC
—	—	—	Thirteenth Guest, (See Mystery of)
12	8	—	This Is the Army.....war-mus-t AYC
5	10	—	Thousands Cheer.....war-mus-t AYC
—	7	5	Thumbs Up.....war-mus-com AYC
—	1	4	Tiger Fangs.....war-mel AYC
—	9	3	Tonight We Raid Calais.....war-mel A
—	9	3	Top Man.....war-mus-com AYC
—	3	5	Tornado.....mel A
—	10	4	True to Life.....mus-dr AYC
—	5	9	Two Senoritas from Chicago.....mus-com A
—	11	1	Two Tickets to London.....war-mus-dr AYC
—	1	2	Underdog, The.....mel AYC
1	5	1	Unknown Guest, The.....mel A
3	8	2	Victory Through Air Power.....car-propaganda-t AYC
—	3	2	Wagon Tracks West.....wes AYC
6	11	—	Watch on the Rhine.....war-dr A
—	1	2	West of Texas.....mus-wes AYC
—	2	4	West Side Kid, The.....cri-mel A
—	9	8	We've Never Been Licked.....war-mel AYC
—	6	6	What's Buzzin', Cousin?.....mus-com AYC
—	2	2	Whistling in Brooklyn.....cri-com AYC
—	4	10	White Savage.....mel-t A
—	—	5	Wild Horse Stampede.....wes AYC
—	6	7	Wintertime.....mus-com AYC
2	1	—	World of Plenty.....propaganda A
—	4	6	Yanks Ahoy.....war-com AYC
—	7	2	Young Ideas.....com A
—	4	4	You're a Lucky Fellow, Mr. Smith.....mus-com A

The Consumers' Observation Post

[Continued from page 4]

from the current table of consumer point values for rationed meats. The joker was that OPA had listed "long-cut" beef tongue in the table of rationed retail cuts, whereas it is a wholesale cut, never sold at retail. Dropping the "long-cut" tongue from the table was simply the correction of an OPA error, not the making of more meat available to consumers. Perhaps the error was the work of one of the eggs-from-capons, beef-cattle-bred-from-steers boys.

* * *

CLOTHES, particularly for women and children, cost a lot more today than in pre-OPA days. That's not news to the family purchasing agent. This situation is not due entirely, however, to the fact that the prices of consumer commodities have generally gone up, but is rather brought about because under the present system of price control, manufacturers find it more profitable to turn out garments in the higher price ranges, for which there is good demand. What is referred to in trade circles as "low-cost" or "low-end merchandise" is just not being made, in spite of the fact that as one puzzled OPA official put it "We've decreed that a manufacturer must produce the same quantity of items at a particular cost level that he did before the war." Such problems, the administrators may yet learn, are not solved by issuing "decrees" but by dealing more intelligently and realistically with the situation.

* * *

LARD, which is rationed to civilians because it is presumably in such short supply that consumers could not get as much as they needed for food use, is now to be used for making soap. Government officials have allocated something like 100 million pounds of lard to the soap industry to alleviate the shortage of fats for soap making and to avoid the need for rationing soap.

* * *

A SOLUTION OF THE LAUNDRY CRISIS and creation of good will at the same time has been attempted by a furniture store in Dyersburg, Tenn. According to newspaper report, the store installed laundry equipment in the store where women could come and do their laundry, with a lounge to wait in, if the facil-



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ities were already in use when they arrived. It is to be hoped that the family A card provided sufficient gas to transport the housewife and her load of laundry or that Johnny's little red wagon is still in good working order to do the hauling.

* * *

NESCAFE, prepared by Nestle's Milk Products, Inc., New York City, has recently come in for criticism by a publication of New Hampshire's State Board of Health. The label claim that "A cup of Nescafe, made according to directions, is a cup of full-flavored, full strength coffee" is considered to be misleading and unwarranted. The state experts point out that their analyses showed that this preparation when prepared as directed would contain about 0.57 grains of caffeine per cup whereas an ordinary cup of coffee made with the usual allowance of one tablespoonful to the cup would furnish over twice that much caffeine per cup. Thus Nescafe could not be expected to have the same stimulation and "lift" per cup, as claimed, that might be expected from ordinary coffee.

* * *

PASTRY may be made with sour cream instead of rationed fats, according to the Rural New-Yorker. To a cup of thick sour cream, add one-half teaspoonful of salt and one-half teaspoonful of soda. Then add sifted pastry flour until the mixture is of the proper consistency to roll out. This amount makes a two-crust pie of medium size. The crust, if properly made, has a very different texture from that made with lard or butter and is lighter and flakier.

* * *

LIPSTICK STAINS may be completely removed from clothing by skillful use of a "lacquer thinner," sold in paint stores. The most successful method is to place the stained spot of the garment over a small bowl and trickle the thinner through it. DuPont thinner was used in the experiment. In order to use no more of the thinner than is actually necessary, it may be applied by means of an eye dropper or poured or dripped slowly from a small pitcher. Since it is extremely flammable and explosive, and its vapors like those of all volatile cleaning solvents unsafe to inhale, it is wisest to apply it out of doors. Never use it near a flame, of course, or while smoking. As a preliminary test, to be sure that the lacquer thinner will not harm the goods or its dye, a few drops of the liquid can be applied first to an edge that does not show, or to a few threads separated from the body of the fabric.

* * *

NEW PRODUCTS: Fire-Kindlers and Logs. There are a number of such products to be found in houseware and department stores these days. One brand called Kindle-Lite comes in the form of sticks 16 inches long and also in the form of 1-inch and larger cubes. The sticks, the smaller size of which weigh about 1-1/2 pounds each, are claimed by the manufacturer to burn for about an hour. They are composed of paper pulp (about 45%) and small amounts of cotton and wood fibers tightly compressed together, and impregnated with about 50% paraffin wax and a small amount of kerosene. These sticks, which can be lighted with a match, are intended mainly for users of open fireplaces, sell for 25 cents each and are of course very expensive compared with a few old newspapers and some pieces of dry kindling wood which have quite well served the same purpose for a good many years. One possible use for the larger-sized cubes, made of the same material, which burn for about 20 minutes, would be as highway flares or warning lights in case of a nighttime motor emergency or repair.

Folding Ironing Board (Hy-Gee Cover Co., Worcester, Mass.) Sells for around \$1.25 in a number of department stores. Light in weight, it is 23 inches in length and would fit into a large suitcase. Both sides are padded. The folding mechanism is somewhat crude, a result no doubt of having to make minimum use of critical materials, but it appears to be adequate, particularly when the board is to be used chiefly for travel or only occasionally in the home, as in the sewing room or as a sleeve board.

* * *

BARGAIN: Hollywood Face Powder (Distributed by Howe Co., Inc., Seattle, New York, and Toronto) 2-3/4 oz. glass jar, 25c plus tax at H. L. Green and other stores.

PHONOGRAPH RECORDS

By Walter F. Grueninger

Please Note: Prices quoted do not include taxes. In the ratings AA indicates highly recommended; A, recommended; B, intermediate; C, not recommended.

TO continue last month's checklist of new sets I have praised during the past year, here are others which I should like to find in my Christmas stocking:

Two of Beethoven's monumental piano concerti are listed as Victor Set 930, \$4.50 for the *Fourth Concerto*, and Victor Set 939, \$5.50 for the *Fifth Concerto*. For violin concerti you have your choice of the classic *Bach Violin Concerto in E*, Columbia Set 530, \$3.50; the romantic *Bruch Concerto No. 1*, Columbia Set 517, \$3.50; or the modern *Prokofieff Concerto in D*, Columbia Set 244, \$3.25, issued as a Record Classic.

Only three vocal sets qualify for this group: the album of *French Opera Arias* sung by Gladys Swarthout, Victor Set 925, \$2.50; the Record Classic of Mahler's depressing *Das Lied von der Erde*, featuring Thorborg and Kullman in Columbia Set 300, \$7.50; Lotte Lehmann's singing of the melodious *Frauenliebe und Leben*, Columbia Set 539, \$3.50.

In the field of light and popular music I suggest you choose from Berlin's *This is the Army*, Decca Set 340, \$2.50; *Favorite Songs from Famous Musicals* sung by Kirsten and Knight, Victor Set P133, \$2.50; *Fiesta in Chile, Bolivia, Peru*, Victor Set P132, \$2. *Flamenco*, Keynote Set K112, \$2.75; *Ellingtonia Vol. 1*, Brunswick Set 1000, \$3.50; *Musical Show Hits* sung by Gladys Swarthout, Victor Set 935, \$3.50.

Ratings of Phonograph Records

ORCHESTRA

Lalo: *Le Roi d'Ys-Overture*. San Francisco Symphony Orchestra under Monteux. 2 sides, Victor 11-8489. \$1. The thrill I experienced when playing this imaginative operatic overture from a first violin chair of a symphony orchestra is not repeated as I listen to this recording. Violins seem subdued, high tones cut off, the monitoring brings an FFF down to an F which is particularly disturbing in the closing measures. The performance is commendable. Side 2 of my pressing swishes.

Interpretation AA
Fidelity of Recording A

CONCERTO

Weber: *Concertstück in F Minor*. Casadesu (piano) & Symphony Orchestra under Bigot. 4 sides, Columbia Set X59. \$2.50. Columbia promotes as a Record Classic its previously-catalogued, decade-old recording of a flashy, four-movement period-piece in concerto style. It's played with dash but recorded in a "dead" studio. Surfaces are audible.

Interpretation AA
Fidelity of Recording A

INSTRUMENTAL

Beethoven: *Sonata No. 14 (Moonlight)*. Serkin (piano). 4 sides, Columbia Set X237. \$2.50. Not yet have we a completely satisfying recording of this beloved music. Serkin's stiff performance sounds no more poetic on records than in the concert hall. Neither gritty surfaces nor poor recording help matters, either. Overall, Bachaus on Victor 8735/6 is probably best—if you must.

Interpretation B
Fidelity of Recording C

VOCAL

Franck: *Panis Angelicus* & Massenet: *Elegie*. Crooks (tenor). 2 sides, Victor 11-8490. \$1. Two old favorites performed satisfactorily and recorded at a high volume level in a spacious chamber. My choice for *Elegie* is Victor 6599, Rosa Ponselle, released possibly fifteen years ago yet currently catalogued.

Interpretation A
Fidelity of Recording AA

Don Cossacks on the Attack. Don Cossack Chorus under Jaroff. 8 sides, Columbia Set 542. \$4.50. Thirty-six male voices offer a miscellany of Russian songs of uneven quality. Best discs: Columbia 7401/2. Surfaces are quiet.

Interpretation AA
Fidelity of Recording A

A Song Program by James Melton (tenor). 6 sides, Victor Set 947. \$2.75. "Melton has indeed inherited the mantle of John McCormack" asserts the Victor Record Review. If this comment applies to performance, James Melton must travel a long road to achieve the artistry of his distinguished predecessor. The eight encore pieces sung here include *Miranda*, *A Ballynure Ballad*, *Low Backed Car*, *Mah Lindy Lou*. Surfaces are unusually quiet.

Interpretation A
Fidelity of Recording AA

LIGHT AND POPULAR

Del Castillo: *Cuckoo Clock* & Strauss: *Trisch-Trisch Polka*. Boston Pops Orchestra under Fiedler. 2 sides, Victor 10-1058. 75c. Typical light pieces heard at Boston Pops concerts. The usual brash Pops recording cannot obliterate the audible surfaces.

Interpretation AA
Fidelity of Recording A

Rodgers-Hammerstein: "Oklahoma"—*Oh! What a Beautiful Mornin'* & *People Will Say We're in Love*. Crosby (tenor). Erwin (soprano). 2 sides, Decca 18564. 50c. Two song hits from a sold-out New York musical show. This crooning performance does justice to neither.

Performance B
Fidelity of Recording A

Morales-Camacho: *Bim Bam Bum* & Cugat-Stillman-Gonzales: *Thanks for the Dream*. Xavier Cugat and his Waldorf-Astoria Orchestra. 2 sides, Columbia 36681. 50c. Lush arrangements of the spirited guaracha from *You Were Never Lovelier* and *Mi Sueno Azul*, both with vocals. Quiet surfaces.

Performance AA
Fidelity of Recording A

Schoen-Greene: *Helena* & Raye-Olshey-Towber: *I Love You Much too Much*. Andrew Sisters (vocal trio). 2 sides, Decca 18563. 50c. Less raucous than usual is the performance of these sisters. The tunes and lyrics, though not enduring, have their moments, such as "if you want a polka with romance, Helena always takes a chance." Performance AA

Fidelity of Recording AA

Weill: *Six Songs*. Lenya (soprano). 6 sides, Bost Set 8. \$3.75. Poorly sung, piano-accompanied performances of Weill's less distinguished songs. Included are *Lost in the Stars*, *Lover Man*, *J'Attends un Navire*, *Soerabaja Johnny*. Noisy surfaces.

Performance C
Fidelity of Recording B

An Invitation to the Waltz. King's Orchestra under Weber. 8 sides, Hit Set H105. \$2.50. *Merry Widow Waltz*, *Siren's Waltz*, *Valse Bluette*, *Waves of the Danube* appear, for the most part, in truncated versions. Small orchestra. Satisfactory surfaces.

Interpretation AA
Fidelity of Recording AA

BONDS AND STAMPS

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BONDS AND STAMPS

